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First hundred years Newaygo
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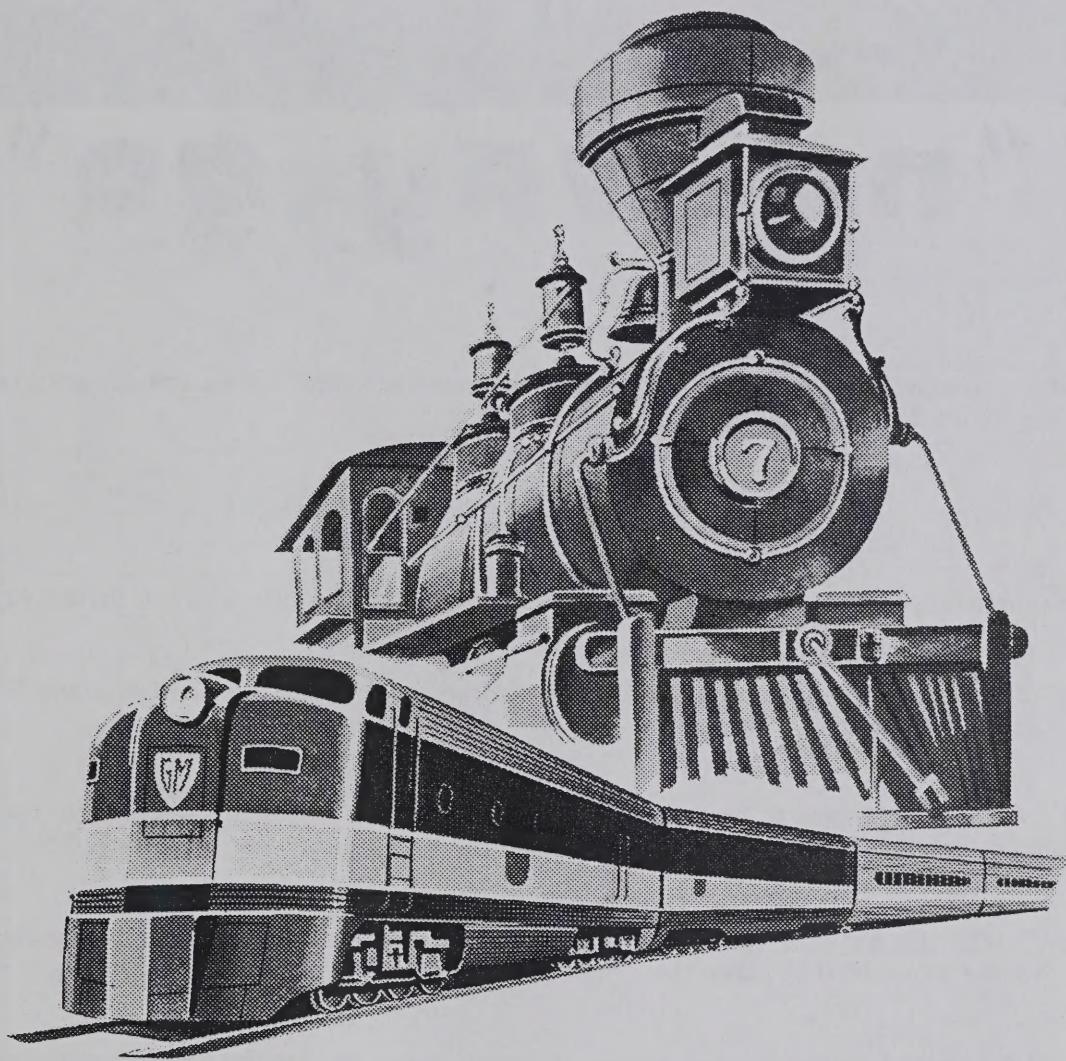


NEWAYGO - MICHIGAN

FACTUAL

PICTORIAL

Allen County Public Library
900 Webster Street
PO Box 2270
Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270



This pictorial booklet on Newaygo is compiled in the hope that it will serve to refresh the minds of the long time residents and to assist the newcomer in getting better acquainted with Newaygo.

We have attempted to present Newaygo as it has existed for a Century from the early logging days, through its industrial growth and finally to its present glory as one of the country's outstanding Hunting, Fishing and Vacation Spots.

We wish to thank those who have made this book possible, by the generous loan of these historical pictures; to the advertisers for their financial assistance, and everyone who has assisted in any way to make this book possible.

.....THE COMMITTEE



"no way go"

The origin of the name NEWAYGO, is a highly controversial subject, so we are presenting as many of the sides of the argument as are available.

You may take your choice --

One thing on which everyone seems to be in agreement is that the name is of Indian origin.....

One explanation is that the name translated from the Indian tongue, means Land of Many Waters and it seems to fit the area very nicely.

Another comes from what appears to be the Indians effort to speak English. Apparently they stopped in the area and announced that they would stay by saying 'We go no farther" or 'No Way Go" --

It is also claimed that the Indians changed their migration route at one time and came through this area and on being asked the name of this place they replied 'New Way to Go" or New way go.

A fourth claim and one that seems to have a note of genuineness is that the area was named in honor of Nay Waw Goo, a Chief of one of the Grand River Bands. The chief's name is signed to a treaty dated July 31, 1855.

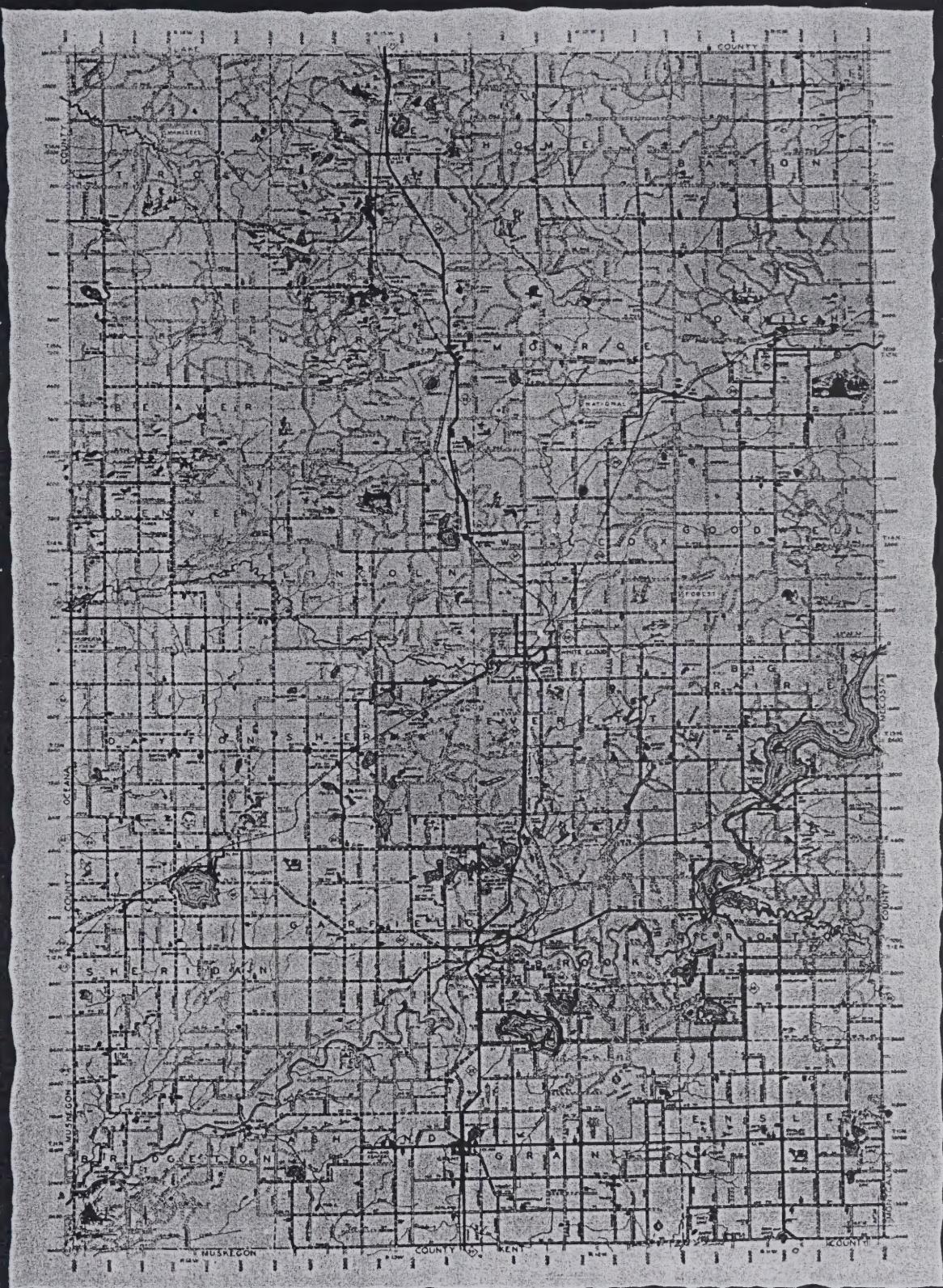
Fifth and last is contained in a letter to George Kritzer of this village from a man who resides in Algonac, Michigan, Mr. R. Lee Poole, who spent a great deal of time among various Indian tribes in his youth and in later years, as a result of his study of Indian languages and dialects, has compiled an Indian-English dictionary.

Mr. Poole has never visited Newaygo and following is a portion of his letter to Mr. Kritzer.

NEWAYGO "I'm not so certain about this word, but as near as I can decipher the meaning, it seems to have something to do with something that leans that is, such as a tree or house leans one way or another, or possibly "slants" might be a better translation. So that if you would say it as it might have been originally started Newaygwung or Newaynung, it could mean a town, burg or place which is on the slant, or is leaning. How does that stack up with the geography of your Town? Is it on a kind of a slope, slant, or lean?

After you have made diligent inquiry, I would very much like to have you relate your discovery, just to see how nearly correct I have translated." --

Inasmuch as Mr. Poole has never been in this part of the country and for the fact that NEWAYGO is built on several slopes and hills, this translation seems more than casually reasonable.



PAYED ROADS
 GRAVELLED ROADS
 GOOD DIRT ROADS
 POOR DIRT ROADS
 FOOT PATHS
 RAILROADS
 ABANDONED RAILROADS
 LANDING FIELDS
 HIGH HILLS

NEWAYGO COUNTY ... MICHIGAN ...

— 10 —

- SCHOOLS
- CHURCHES
- MALLS
- FOREST FIRE TOWERS
- TOURIST CAMPS AND PARKS
- HUNTING OR FISHING CAMPS AND RESORTS
- GOLF COURSES

WE ALL WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING ADVERTIZERS WHOSE CONTRIBUTION HAVE
HELPED MAKE THIS BOOKLET POSSIBLE

Newaygo Engineering Company	Consumers Power Company
The First State Bank	Mathew's Motor Sales
Feller's Store	Booth's Variety Store
Bunker Hill Bait Shop	George Kritzer Insurance Agency
Harold's I. G. A.	Ebel Body Shop
Carmon Campbell Insurance	Sportsmans Bar
Marwood Eat Shop	Bates Forest Acres
Larsen Fuel & Tile Company	Gerber Products
Valley Inn & Theatre	Meeuwenberg Sunoco Service
V. F. W. Post #4249	Sholtey's Resort
Good Housekeeping	M37 Motel
Valley Inn Coffee Shop	Bob Baker-Contractor
R. H. Curley	Ferol Stevens-Insurance
Riverview Resort	Miller's Friendly Service
Edighoffer Shoe Store	Laveaux's Dress Shop
Braden's Resort	Ranger's-Service
Newaygo Motor Sales	Long's Resort-Kimball Lake
Ruggles News Stand	Senecal's Restaurant
R. L. Heintzelman-Jeweler	Yunker-Durfee Insurance Agency
Kelly's Standard Service	Buds Place-Brooks Lake
Petite Dress Shop	Ferguson Motor Sales
Powers Clothing Store	Peschke Packing Company
Johnson's Market	Chamberlain Guide Service
T. N. T. Grill	State Hotel & Bar
Rosenow Grocery	North Shore Resort-Hess Lake
Hemily Lumber Company	Newaygo Republican
Hemily Hardware	Bumstead Roofing
Robey Manufacturing Company	Beebe Oil Company
Jerome's Drug Store	Don Cool Barber Shop
Barry's Market	O & A Electric Co-operative
A & P Super Market	Office Supply-Fremont
Ed Henning-Guide Service	Jensen's Flowers & Gifts-Grant
Camera Center-Fremont	Hi-Way Inn
R. N. LeMire Drug Store	Dick Black Enterprises
Dr. Paul E. Paine-Dentist	New Foundry
Newaygo Chamber of Commerce	Newaygo Gravel Company

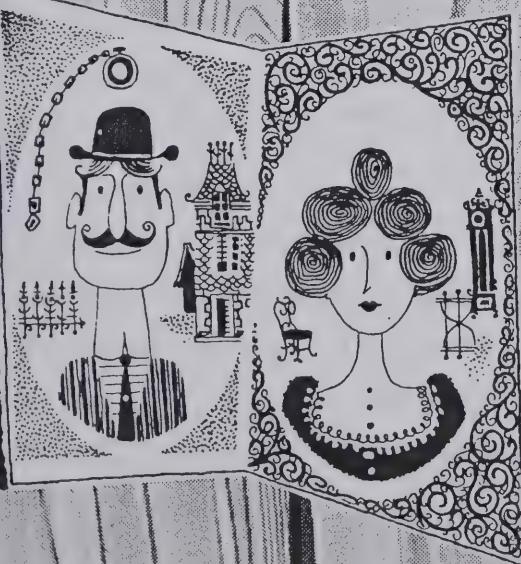
Henry Rowe Manufacturing Co.

--- PLEASE REFER TO BACK OF BOOKLET FOR ADVERTIZEMENTS ---

section 1

HISTORICAL

Dealing with the Lumbering Era
and early pictures of Newaygo
and vicinity.





Logging at Hess Lake 1886

This is a picture of Rastus Sailor's logging operations on the South side of Hess Lake in Newaygo County, taken in 1886. This was a very fine stand of White Pine, the trees all being large. The tree to the extreme right shows where it was notched with an ax on one side and the sawers sawed through from the other side. In this way, they could fall the tree in the direction they wanted it so that it would not break nor break the other trees in falling. You will notice that they used quite a number of yoke of oxen in this operation. The oxen were used for skidding and while they were very slow-moving animals, they were very powerful. An ox-teamster had to be skilled in that line of work to handle them properly. After the trees were cut down, the top branches were chopped off and then the logs were cut into the lengths desired.



Logging at Pickerell Lake 1888

This is a copy of a picture belonging to the collection of old time lumber pictures of Mr. F. Jacobi of Newaygo, Michigan. This picture was taken at Pickerell Lake in Newaygo County in 1888. As near as we can learn, it is one of Ryerson-Hills' logging operations and shows a stand of White Pine and Norway timber. The picture shows the trees being felled and cut into logs and put on skidways; and was, evidently, taken before the snow fell in the early Fall. After the trees were cut into logs, they were skidded on to skidways and then loaded on to sleighs and hauled to the river. In the 70's and early 80's, oxen were used for skidding the logs in the woods and horses were used for hauling the logs to the river. Ryerson-Hills operated for a number of years in Newaygo County. Their two mills were in Muskegon where the logs were manufactured into lumber, most of which was shipped by water. The two mills had a sawing capacity of approximately forty-two million feet per season. Their season was eight and one-half to nine months in the year.



Batteau Crew, Muskegon River - 1888

Through the courtesy of Mr. F. Jacobi of Newaygo, Michigan, we are showing a picture of the Batteau Crew on Muskegon River, taken in 1888, near Newaygo. The Batteau crews started, one from Houghton Lake at the head of the Muskegon River and one from Big Rapids, in the Spring of the year and it was their job to keep the logs moving until they reached Muskegon and to prevent jams forming in the river. There were usually 125 to 150 men in each of the crews and they lived in canvas covered scows, shown in this picture. There were usually three scows for each crew, one for cooking and eating quarters and two for sleeping quarters. The scows were about three times as long as they were wide. The long boat pointed on both ends was known as the Batteau and was used by the river men. In the early days, they used dugout canoes but later on the batteau boat was used altogether. The work on the river was hard and hazardous and the hours were long. Men had to be strong and very fast on their feet. Each crew worked the river until the logs were delivered at Muskegon. As near as we can learn, the first logs cut and put in Muskegon River was done by Merrill & Page and Loyd & Place at Mill Iron, Michigan in the winters of 1840 and 1841. The lumber cut by the mills on Muskegon Lake in 1887 was 660,568,834 ft. and shingles manufactured the same year was 492,277,000. The mills operated about eight months in the year.



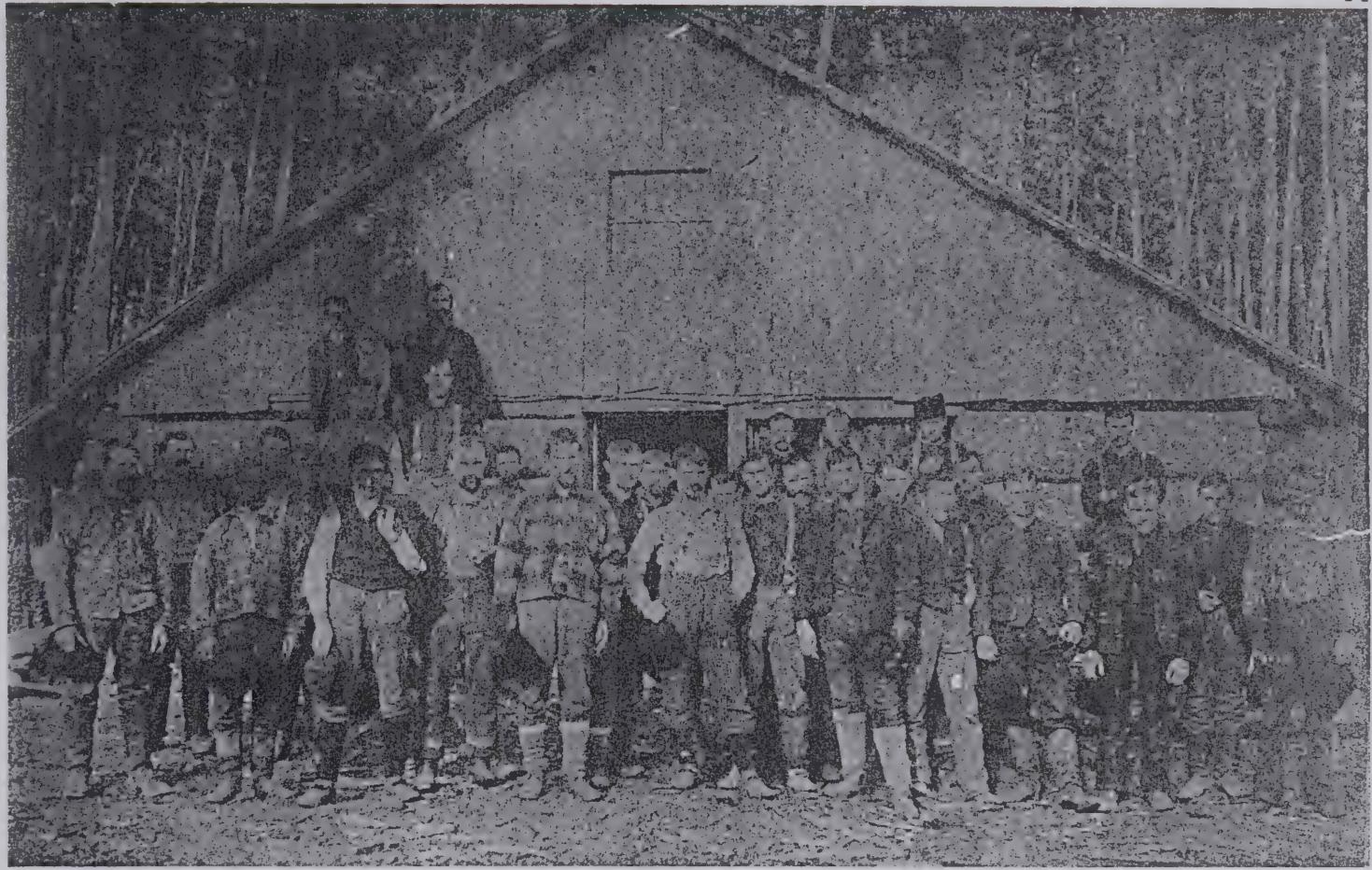
Logging Near Muskegon River

This is a picture of summer logging taken just outside of Newaygo near the Muskegon River. This timber was owned by Ryerson Hills who operated very extensively in Newaygo County. In the early days, logging done in the summer time was where the timber was within a few miles of the river and the hauls were short as it was not profitable to haul logs on trucks for any great distance as they could not haul as large a load on trucks as they could on sleighs. The bunks on the trucks were narrower than the sleigh bunks. In the late 90's when some of the larger operators loaded their logs on railroad cars, year around logging was done.



Hauling Logs to Muskegon River

This picture shows the loading of logs in the woods to be hauled to the river and was taken by Mr. N. B. Lawson in the late '80's or early '90's. As near as we are able to ascertain, this is a picture of Ryerson-Hills' logging operations in Newaygo County. The logs, after being loaded on to sleighs, were hauled to the river, there to be unloaded into roll-ways on the bank of the river. Sometimes, these logs would be piled solid from one bank of the river to the other. In the Spring of the year, with the high waters, the roll-ways would be broken and the logs would be on their way to the Muskegon mills. Ryerson-Hills operated two saw mills, one in Muskegon on Western Ave. and the other mill at what is known as Bay Mills in North Muskegon. From a book published by the Muskegon Board of Trade in 1885, we find an article which was published in the Muskegon Chronicle in 1885 about a trial of speed made by the Stewart Ives mill at Hungerford, Newaygo County, Mich. for the entertainment of Ohio and Pennsylvania lumber dealers. Stewart Ives operated a railroad from their timber to the mill. Taking the party of lumber dealers into the woods, they allowed them to select a large White Pine tree to be cut down. After the tree was selected, four men went at it with axes and saws and in 2 minutes, it was cut down and on the ground and in 4 minutes more, it was cut into four logs containing 848 ft. and loaded on the log train. The train made the run of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the mill in 4 minutes, where the logs were dumped into the lake and carried up into the mill on an endless chain. It took $7\frac{1}{2}$ minutes to cut the logs into lumber ready for use. It took $21\frac{1}{2}$ minutes from the time the ax first hit the tree until it was cut into lumber, edged and trimmed and loaded on the car. We would estimate that the butt log was between 24 and 26 inches in diameter on the stump.

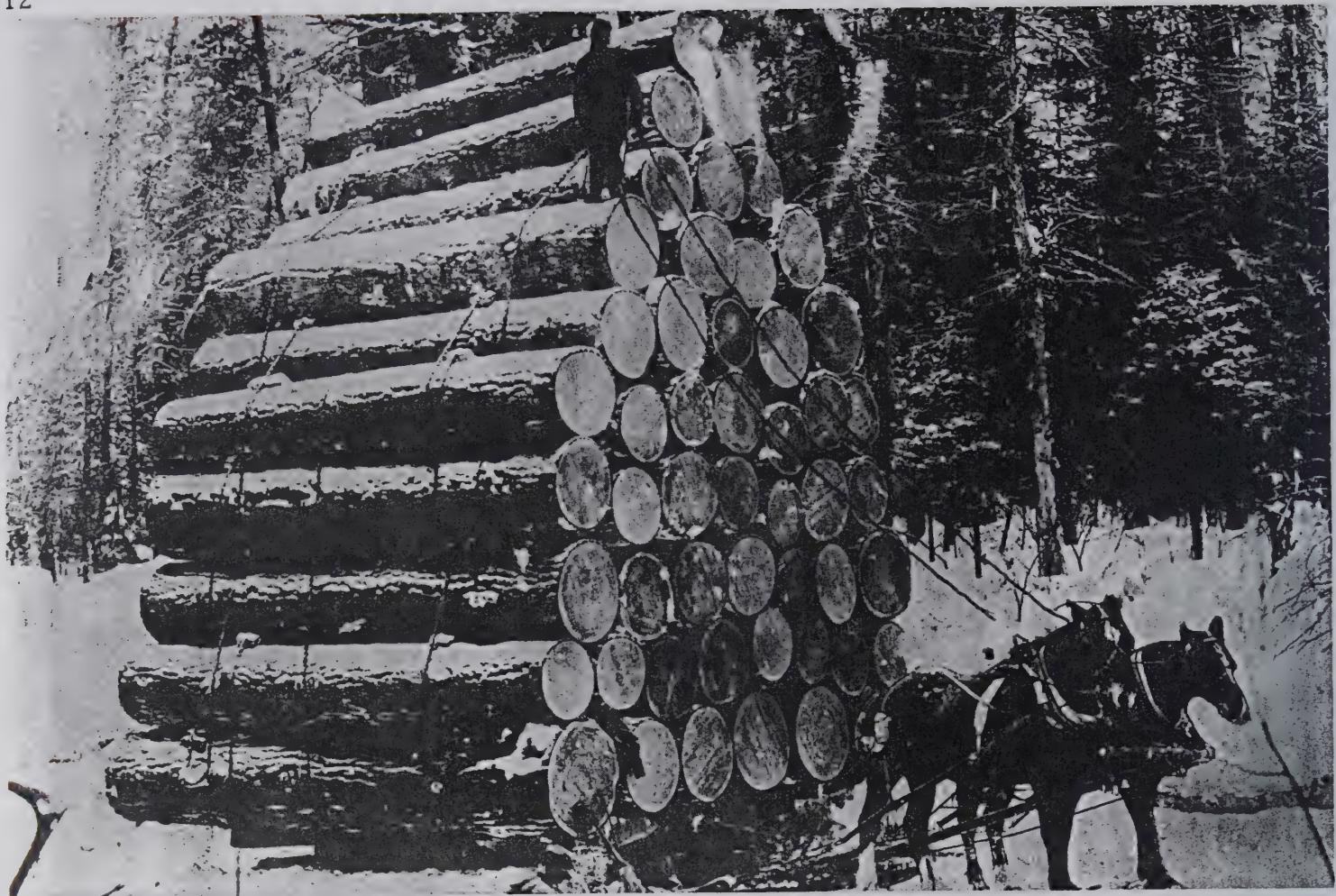


RYERSON & HILL LUMBER CREW (1880-1890)

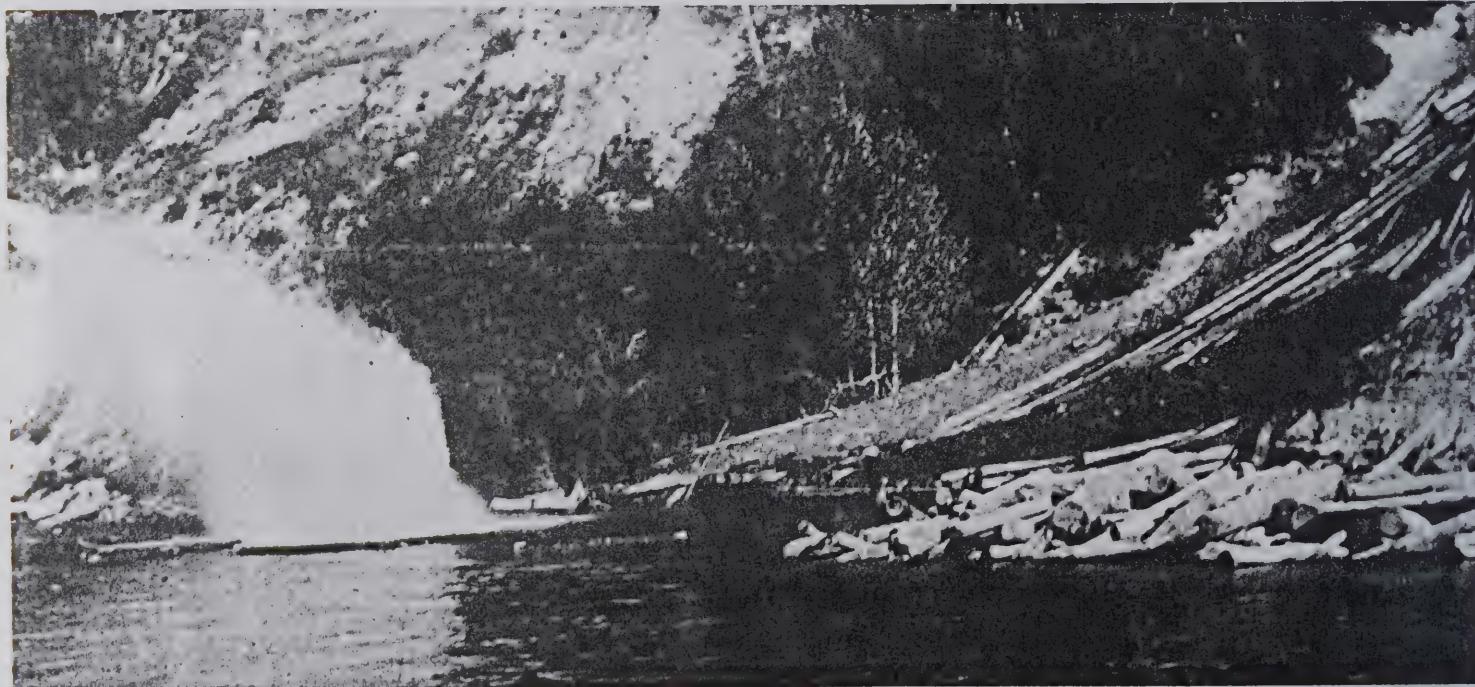
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RYERSON & HILL COOK HOUSE (1880-1890)



LOGS TO MARKET (Winter of 1887)

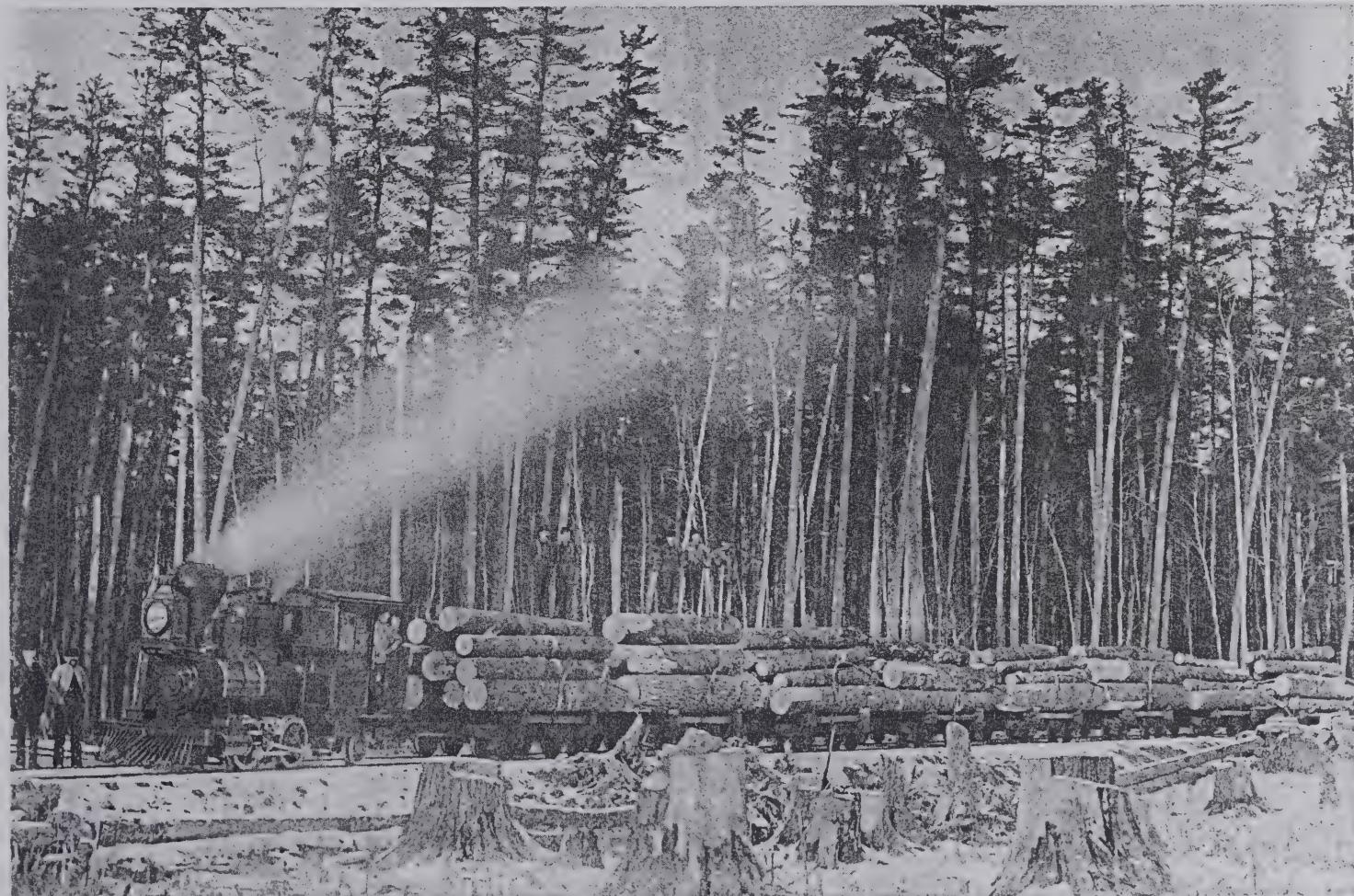


"LOGS AWAY" - Logs Sliding Down Rollway into River (1886)

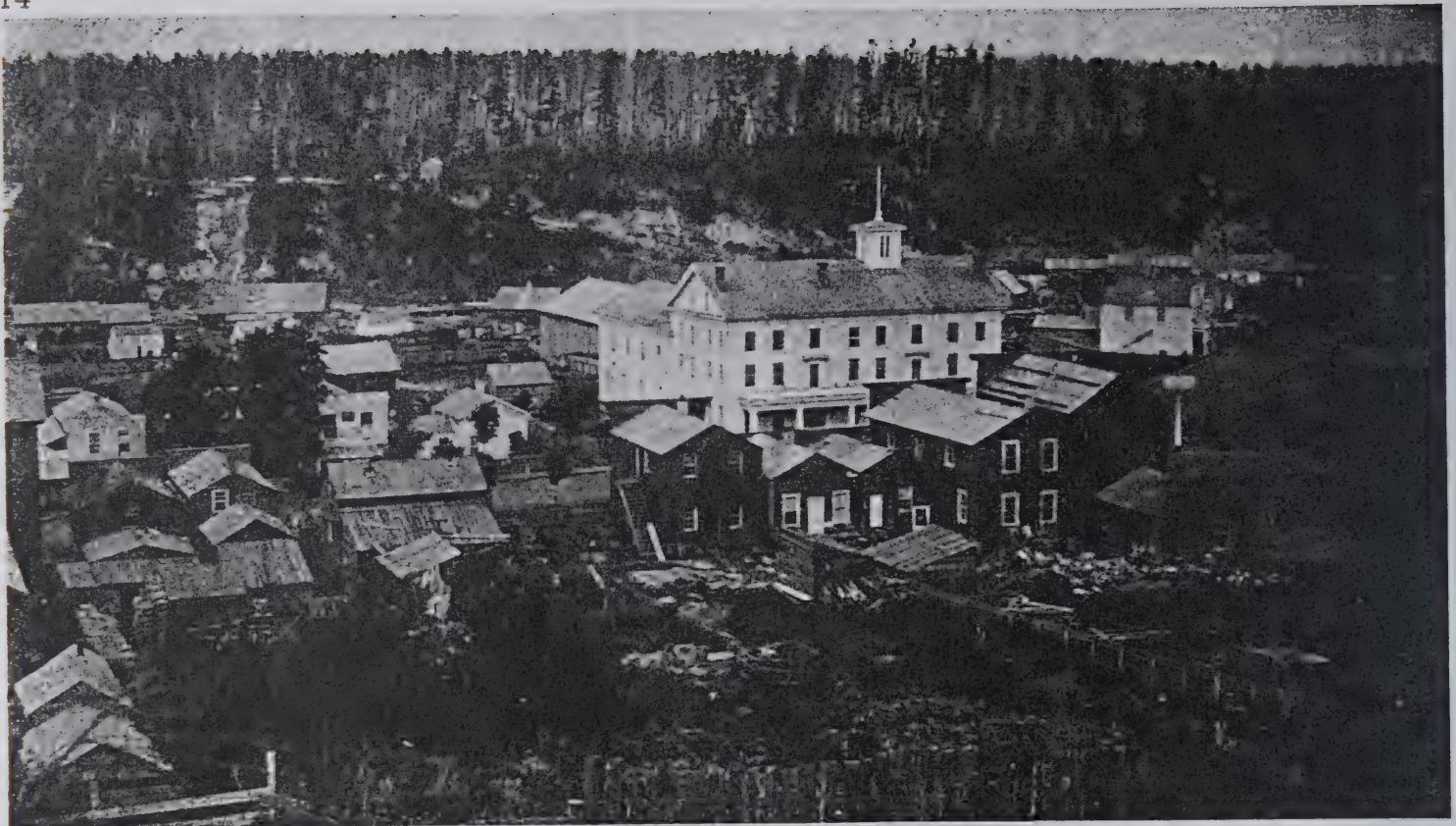


ARTHUR B. LONG

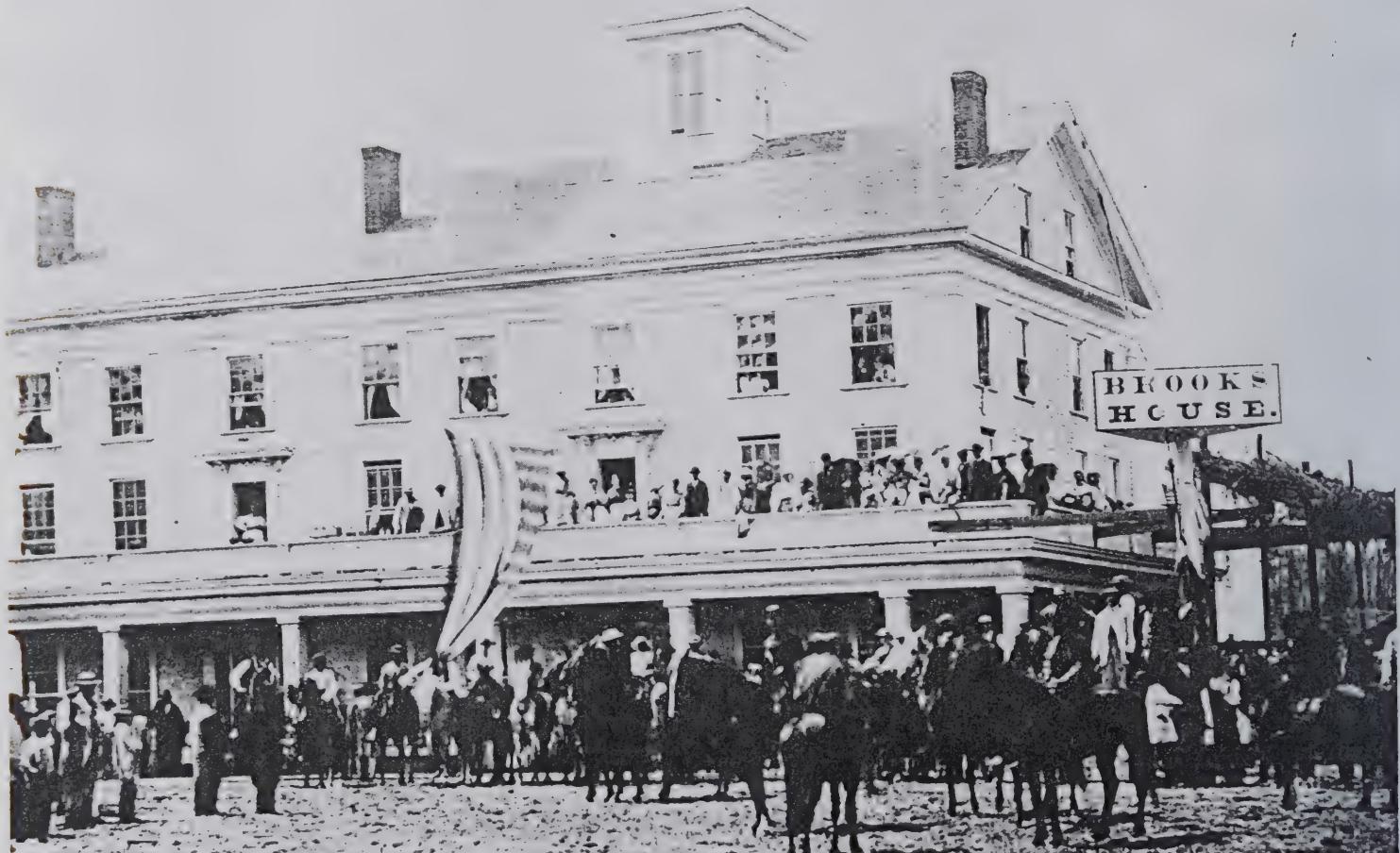
(Logging Train that Operated in the Lake Area North of Newaygo)



"LOADED AND READY TO ROLL"



Village of Newaygo Prior to The Big Fire of 1882
Picture Taken from Top of Schoolhouse Hill.



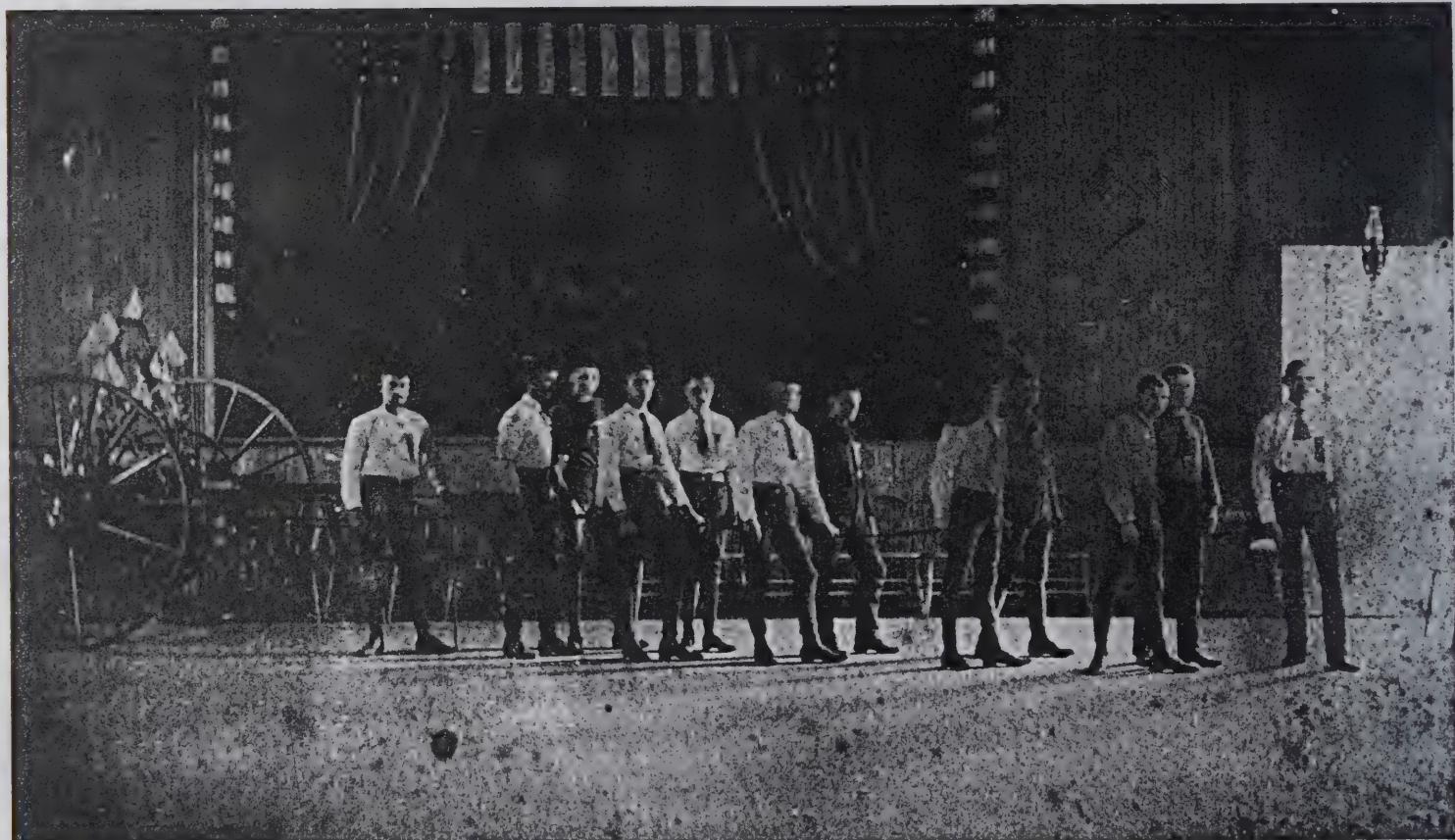
Brooks House - Burned in The Fire of 1882
Replaced by Courtright Hotel



Newaygo After The Big Fire - 1882 (note old covered bridge at far right of picture)

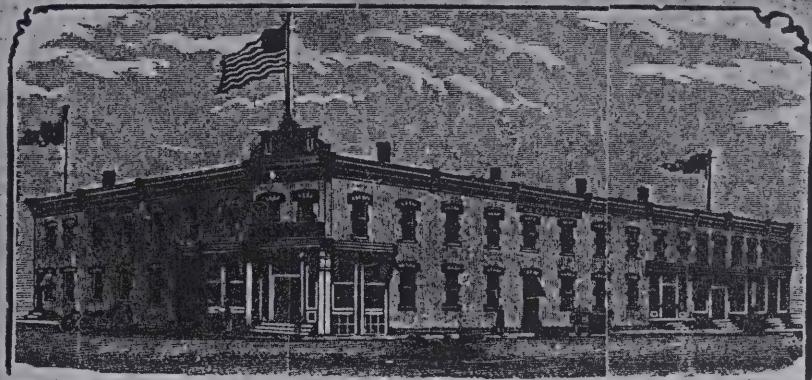


ANOTHER SCENE TAKEN AFTER THE FIRE - An enterprising barber set up shop in the tent and was doing business next day. Pump in right foreground was only available fire fighting equipment.



NEWAYGO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT - Picture taken in the Newaygo Opera House (1888).

WILL COURTRIGHT of Newaygo, Michigan.



112334

\$1,176.67. Being one-fifteenth of each of the specifications of the following specific and concurrent insurance, to-wit:

1st. \$10,500. On his two-story, brick, gravel roof hotel building known as "The Courtright," including steam heating apparatus, electric lamps, wires, switches, cut-offs and other electric appliances used for lighting said hotel and all permanent fixtures therein, all while contained in the above described hotel building, situated on lot No. 13 of Block No. 5 of the village of Newaygo, County of Newaygo and State of Michigan, and occupied by the assured for hotel purposes.

2d. \$3,500. On his hotel furniture, useful and ornamental, beds, bedding, carpets, mirrors, silver and plated ware, paintings and engravings at not to exceed their cost price, musical instruments, crockery, glassware, stoves, groceries, provisions and stores, and office, dining room and kitchen furniture.

3d. \$ 800. On his bars, bar fixtures and bar furniture, mirrors and their frames, and saloon fixtures and furniture;

4th. \$1,000. On his stock of wines, liquors and cigars;

5th. \$ 150. On his billiard and pool tables—not exceeding \$75 on each table, and

6th. \$ 300. On his two-story, brick, gravel roof, laundry building, situate on Lot No. 13 of Block No. 5, in said Village and County of Newaygo, Michigan.

7th. \$1,000. On his frame, shingle roof Hotel Barn building and additions, situate on Lot No. 13 of Block No. 5, of the Village of Newaygo, County of Newaygo, and State of Michigan, occupied, east part by assured for private barn purposes and west part by one tenant as a livery barn.

8th. \$ 350. On his buggies, carriages, cutters, harness, robes, blankets, whips, bells, tools and implements while contained in said barn and in frame, shingle roof shed, attached to north side of ice house, and designated as No. 351 Sanborn Map Co.'s map, May, 1904, sheet No. 2.

9th. \$ 50. On his hay and grain; all while contained in said barn.

LIGHTNING CLAUSE.—This policy shall cover any direct loss or damage caused by Lightning, (meaning thereby the commonly accepted use of the term Lightning, and in no case to include loss or damage by cyclone, tornado or windstorm,) not exceeding the sum insured, or the interest of the insured in the property, and subject in all other respects to the terms and conditions of this policy. Provided, however, that there shall be any other insurance on said property, this company shall be liable only pro rata with such other insurance for any direct loss by Lightning, whether such other insurance be against direct loss by Lightning or not.

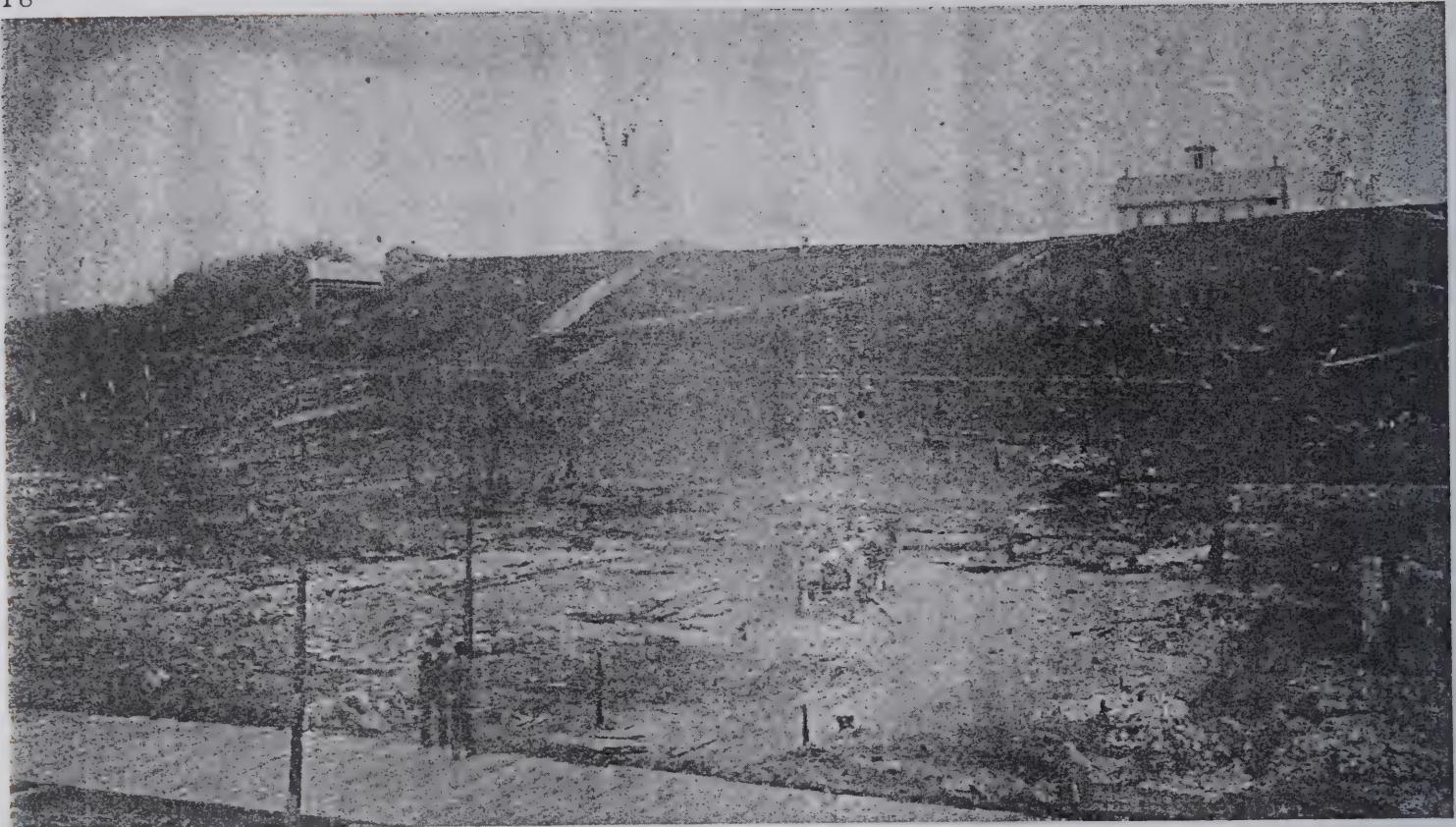
GASOLINE STOVE PERMIT.—Permission is hereby given for the using of a Gasoline Stove in said hotel; the reservoir to be filled by daylight only, and when the stove is not in use. Warranted by the assured that no artificial light be permitted in the room when the reservoir is being filled, and no gasoline, except that contained in said reservoir, shall be kept within the building, and not more than five gallons, in a tight and entirely closed metallic can, free from leak, on the premises adjacent thereto.

CAUTION.—The danger of gasoline stoves is not so much in themselves, as in having Gasoline about. At ordinary temperature Gasoline continually gives off inflammable vapor, and a light some distance from it will ignite through the medium of this vapor. It is said that ONE PINT OF GASOLINE WILL IMPREGNATE TWO HUNDRED CUBIC FEET OF AIR and make it explosive; and it depends upon the proportions of air and vapor whether it becomes a burning gas or destructive explosive. Beware of any leaks in cans, and never forget how dangerous a material you are handling. Never attempt to fill the reservoir while the stove is burning, or if any other light is in the room. A little carelessness may hazard your LIFE as well as property.

Permission is hereby given to keep not exceeding one hundred gallons of gasoline in metal tank in uninsured building known as office, on the premises of assured. It is understood and agreed that the handling of the same in any insured building will render this policy null and void.

Concurrent insurance permitted.

E. O. SHAW,
"Old Reliable" Insurance Agency,
Newaygo, Mich.



ANOTHER SCENE TAKEN AFTER FIRE OF 1882. Note wood steps leading down from old school house.



OLD EXCHANGE HOTEL (Stood about where Dr. Moores Office is located today) 1880.



NEWAYGO INDOOR BASEBALL TEAM - about 1905

Back Row (left to right) Trexler - Hartman - Ansorge - Seymore
Center (left to right) Grey - Bell - Thompson - W. Burton
Front (left to right) Morse - G. Burton





STARTING CONSTRUCTION OF NEWAYGO DAM



DAM PARTIALLY COMPLETED



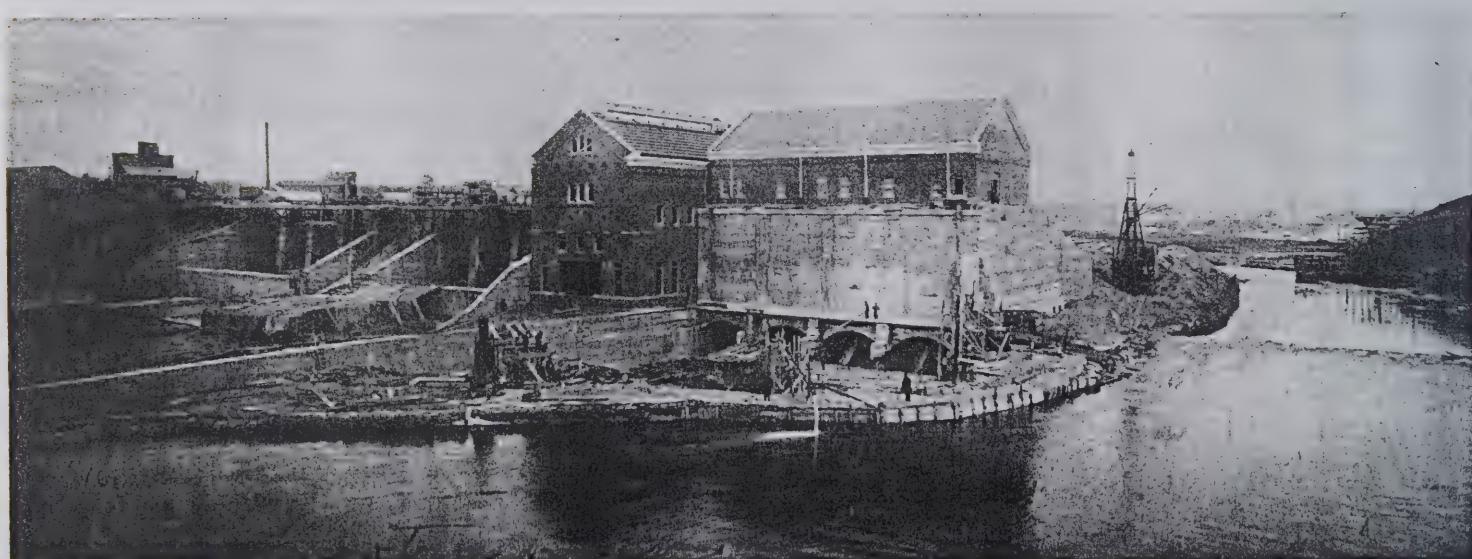
DAM COMPLETED AND IN OPERATION. Concrete facings were poured on Dam for added strength.



ANOTHER PICTURE OF FINISHED DAM. The row of nine houses at top of picture was known as "Bloody Row". History tells us that 3 murders were committed here during early lumbering days. Houses have since been torn down.



AND WE EVEN HAD A TRAIN WRECK HERE IN 1906
(note style of clothing worn by spectators)



CROTON DAM UNDER CONSTRUCTION
(1906)



DR. FLORENCE QUICK - photo taken about 1900

HALF A CENTURY vs TODAY

....By Helen Stipe

Many folks up Newaygo way can remember when Madame Florence Quick lived in the little frame house by the river. A feature story of her life, published in our news columns just 50 years ago, reads like a fairy tale. "She lived by the river more than 45 years," we read, "toiling, grieving, hoping, sheltering the unfortunate, feeding the hungry and keeping in her crude but kindly way all who have gone to her in distress."

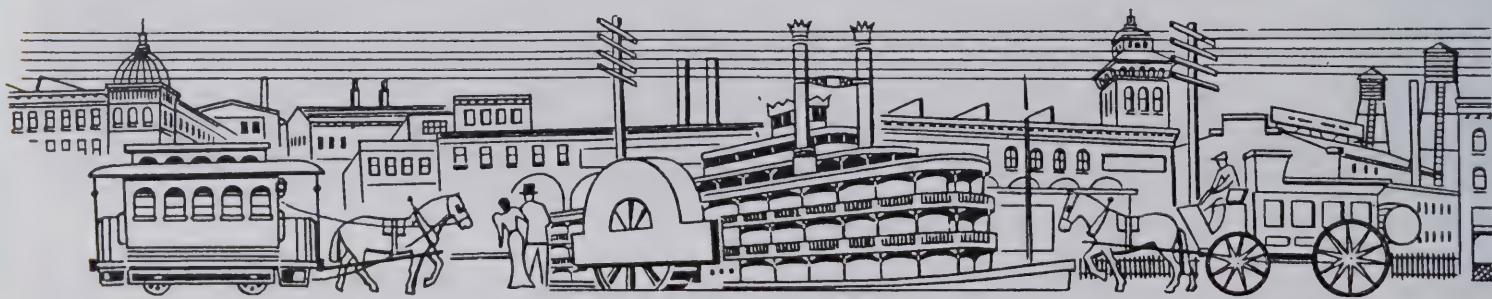
Madame Quick had no visible means of support, we were told, and yet, through the many friends she had made, was never without food, fuel or shelter.

Born Florence Melanso, Madame Quick was the first white woman to marry a white man on Muskegon river. She and her brother came to the lumber woods near "Mill Creek" when she was two years old. When she was five, and her brother seven, their father returned to Canada leaving the two children in the shanty alone. He expected to be gone a month and admonished friends in Grand Rapids to keep an eye on the children, "but apparently they never gave them a thought afterwards." Grand Rapids, then, was only a trading post and the forest was infested with wild animals and thickly populated with Indians.

Late that fall a French trader discovered the children living alone and subsisting on berries and bark. He took them to his home, until Florence was old enough to put out to work as a housemaid. She was eight years old. In 1846, at 15 years, Florence married Thomas Quick and returned to her first home. By the time she was 23 she had borne eight children and was widowed. At one time Madame Quick was a nursemaid in the home of Martin Ryerson.

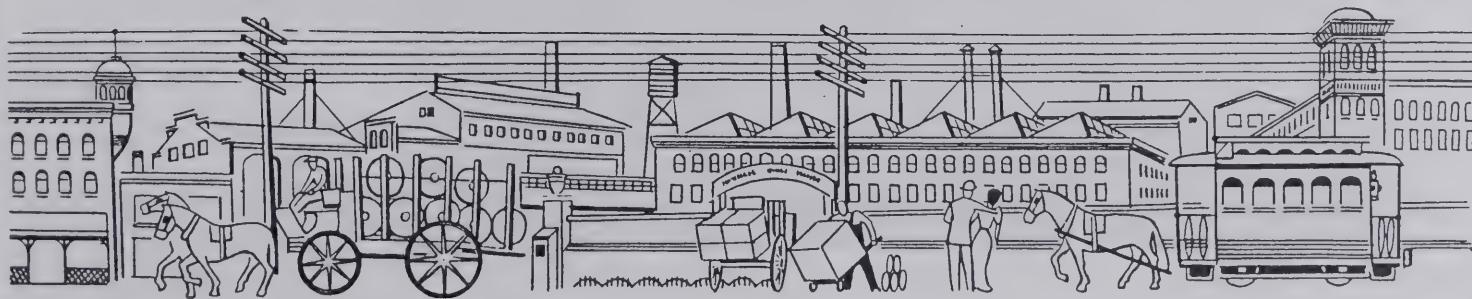


FIRST COURT HOUSE BUILDING IN NEWAYGO COUNTY

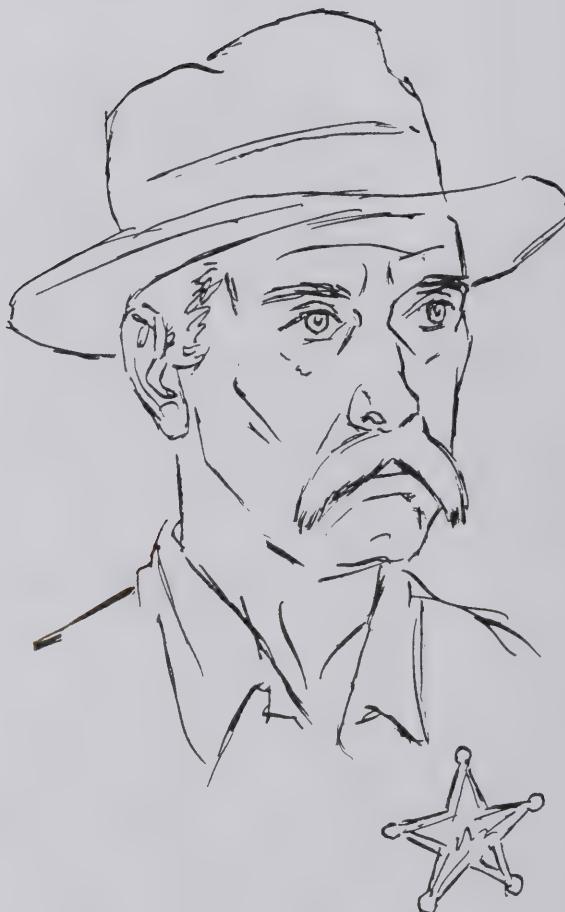




OLD WOOD FRAME SCHOOL HOUSE - located where
present Newaygo High School now stands



SHERIFF'S NOTICE

**BROKE JAIL***ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 11th***\$75.00 Reward!**

I will pay **FIFTY DOLLARS** Reward for the arrest and delivery to me of one _____ who is under sentence to the State Prison. Said _____ is about forty years old, 5 feet 4 inches tall: heavy-set, weighs about 165 pounds; round, bullet head; full, fleshy face: upper front teeth out fair complexion, blue eyes, dark hair, short bushy mustache, and whisker shaved about an inch and a half below the ears; hair and whiskers slightly sprinkled with grey; high forehead; stands up straight, rather square shouldered, and a little portly; speaks with a slight Irish brogue. When last seen had on knit Cardigan jacket, red stripe down front, old black hat, old fine boots, and gray pants considerably worn and stained around fly.

I will also give **\$25** reward for the arrest and delivery to me of one _____ who made his escape at the same time: _____ about 5 feet 7 inches in height, about forty years of age, but looks younger; black, bushy hair: dark complexion; heavy dark brown chin whisker and mustache; high cheek bones, heavy haggy eyebrows, eyes a very dark hazel; low forehead; weighs about 170 pounds; broad shoulders, a little stooping, and short, thick neck. When last seen he had on dark pants and vest, stoga boots, pepper and salt business coat, and black felt hat.

Dated Newaygo, April 12, 1877.

GEO. W. FRY,
Sheriff of Newaygo County, Mich.

DUE TO LACK OF TELEPHONES AND OTHER FORMS OF COMMUNICATION
 THIS TYPE OF NOTICE WAS MAILED TO ALL POSTMASTERS IN THE
 COUNTY BY THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT IN THE EARLY DAYS



NEWAYGO VILLAGE SCENE - taken by Albert Race about 1905
from top of hill on west side of Pennoyer Creek

THE STORY OF A GREAT ELM TREE

...by Mrs. Allen Smith

This article was written in 1951 by Mrs. Allen Smith, a teacher, in connection with an extension course on Michigan history. (Ed. Note for Big Elm Story)

This is the obituary of the "big elm" recently removed from its place at the corner of Main St., west of the school. The ancient tree gave way, as all "old-timers" eventually must, to advancement, progress or, to speak exactly, a street paving project. A count of its age rings, made while it was being cut up, indicated that the tree was probably over a hundred years old before a white man ever saw it. It is gone now, but it seems fitting that its passing should be recorded and memory of it preserved in this year chosen for Newaygo's centennial.

Near our home on the hill overlooking the village of Newaygo and the Muskegon river beyond, there stands a great elm, known back in 1880 as the "Big Elm". Legend has it that Indians during a hundred or more years before that used it as a guiding land mark. We have often thought of the pageant of history over which this tree has towered, of the changes it has lived through, of the tales its leafy whisperings reveal if we could understand.

It may have been alive when Marquette and La Salle saw waters which had passed below its hill top mere hours before, flow from the mouth of the river now known as the Muskegon. But being an elm, we place its youth at a more recent time.

We feel certain that it stood there, tall and straight, though not so stout when Gordon F. Hubbard, the American Fur Company clerk, and his lieutenant, Du Frain, passed up the river on their way to fulfill the assignment Hubbard had received from Ramsay Crooks. Crooks was one of the fur company's directors at Mackinac. Hubbard was to visit an outfit which was to winter "sixty miles up the Muskegon." Hubbard and Du Frain fulfilled their mission, but endured such hardship that Du Frain, an "experienced woodsman and friend of Indians", died on the return trip to Mackinac. Our tree may have noted with sadness the pelts of beaver, bear, lynx, martin, otter and mink that the voyageurs who came with Hubbard and Du Frain carried in their canoes down stream in the spring time of that year of 1819.

Each year at the coming of fall our tree watched the Ottawas paddle upstream to their winter hunting ground. Each year in the spring the many canoes would return, pass silently down stream laden with maple sugar, furs, deer skins, bear oil and meat, deer tallow, even honey. Some few Indians would come to the banks of the great stream in the spring of each year to spear sturgeon that were making their way upstream from the great lake beyond the vision of our tree.

Sometimes in the 1820's our tree must have noted among the voyageurs and Indians who were on the river, one who came with dignity and authority, the famous Rix Robinson who administered the territory from Kalamazoo to Little Traverse for the American Fur Company. He would be visiting his twenty or more posts in this territory from his headquarters at Grand Rapids.

We wonder if the tree noted the out-going of the Indians when they left to make the treaty with the white men, The Washington Treaty, that was to sign the death warrant of the old fur trading days, of the quiet winters, of the cry of the timber wolves, of the mighty stands of white pine timber! We wonder if it understood the import of the group of canoes that were led upstream that year of 1836 by the Chicagoan, Augustus Penoyer, with his guide, well known to our tree, the Frenchman, Michel Charleau, whose post was located farther upstream. We wonder if it shuddered when Penoyer, coming again down stream, paused on the opposite bank where a beautiful creek entered the bigger river and carved PENOYER in the bark of a great tree standing there. Could our tree know that his friends, the great pines near by, would be the first to fall in this dawning new era of the lumberman because this visitor had chosen this particular place along the Muskegon as the one best suited for the building of a mill?

Did our tree note the arrival of materials from downstream--the great activity--the queer new building on the bank of the small creek? Did it watch the pines go down over there, one by one, faster, faster, and note the lumber made into a raft and set off downstream in that fall of 1837? That lumber from Penoyer's days was the first from the Muskegon river mills to reach Chicago. It went by schooner from Muskegon.

There was increased activity down along the river, and in 1841 our big elm looked down upon the first log drive to pass the low-lands below. John A. Brooks had come out from New York and put logs from above the "Fork" which is now Croton, into Muskegon waters.

Supplies continued to come up stream from Muskegon. Settlers, lumbermen, and rivermen arrived.

In 1853 the waters of the Muskegon began to be tamed somewhat to the whims of these white men. The Newaygo company built a dam across the river, and a power race was set off to run the hundred big saws within the red mill with the white devil-head log mark on its gable. Our tree saw thousands,--millions of his friends of the pine lands disappear into the mill.

The settlement below the elm tree's hill now grew rapidly. Roads were built -- sandy mud tracks with logs in the places most likely to mire the supply wagons and the stage coach that was now making regular trips from Grand Rapids. Mail came, but it was addressed, "Chicago, in care of Brooks Mill" or

some other mill. It was distributed from here to places in all the Grand Traverse region.

In 1856 our tree may have wondered at the toot of a new whistle down below. A steam boat had arrived from Muskegon. In the next dozen or more years, several boats were to succeed this first one -- "The North Star," "The Porter," "The Newaygo," "The Lizzie May," "The Lucy Martin." Many times our tree must have listened in vain for the whistle of the boat. Logs were always detaining the "regular" arrival of the steamer. Sometimes the boat sank, sometimes the water was too high for it to get under the Sand Creek bridge down stream -- sometimes the boat burned. As late as 1904 it was hoped that a boat could maintain regular passenger and freight service to Muskegon. In that year a fifty foot boat, the "Helen C. La Moore", was tried. It had a gasoline motor, and could stop anywhere along the river for it drew only 20 inches when loaded. But trouble with log jams came so frequently that service stopped in August.

Did our tree wonder what was happening in 1866 when the musty old coffin boxes of the cemetery on Price Hill were disinterred and left on top of the ground during the moving of the cemetery to its present location across the river? Did it think, as did the youthful new-comer, George Fry, who saw the coffins lying all over the hill top the misty morning he arrived, that the resurrection day had come?

If our tree could speak as the "Republican" of 1870, it would have reported "Large numbers of Prairie Schooners pass through here each week carrying people to new homes in Northern Michigan." Those schooners would have used the old bridge downstream a short distance, and Wood's Hill to go north, -- or the covered bridge when preceded the present structure on M-37.

In that year our tree began an association which has lasted ever since. The school was moved up hill in its shadows. Children have played about its huge trunk ever since, and watched the squirrels scamper up and down its rough bark.

Was our tree as serene as it always seems to be when a milling group of people down near the river greeted a new whistle one September afternoon in 1872 and welcomed the great iron horse that brought the first train to Newaygo? Three hundred passengers and a big brass band poured out of the coaches to help this community celebrate the coming of the railroad.

Our tree must have watched the logs from Ryerson and Hill's Rail Road across the river being unloaded at the top of the almost perpendicular chute there. The logs would flash down to the river with a roar and crash -- sending sprays high into the air. Day after day -- they went, until at last -- all the pine from the area beyond was exhausted.

The fire that destroyed most of downtown Newaygo in 1882 must have wreathed the head of our elm with frightening billows of smoke. The charred empty roadway smouldered for days -- but -- soon new structures were erected and -- history moved on.

In 1886 the wooden railroad bridge across the Muskegon was to be replaced by an iron structure, the south piers of which were to rest in the power race of the big mill, then owned by D. P. Clay. Mr. Clay decided that the new piers would cut down his water supply more than the old wooden ones had, and refused permission for the work. The Railroad company was determined to proceed, and backed its workers who began the pile driving, with a threatening hose of live steam. If trees ever chuckle, our big elm must have done so that day as it looked down on the scene that followed. Mr. Clay's men were all ready to fight the steam hose gang with rifles, shot guns, and revolvers taken from the shelves of Clay's store near by. It became evident, though, that only one of them was sanctioned to do the "fighting". A Mr. Coates stationed himself beyond the range of the steam hose, but within rifle range of the busy railroaders. Bang! The railroaders around the pile driver stiffened -- but noted the frayed hemp fibers of the cable on the driver. Shouts and fist waving followed. The weight was drawn up and Bang! More hemp fibers flew. Down went the weight again, then up, and Bang! The cable snapped! The railroad men stared -- then down the tracks and away from there they went! The first battle of the bridge was over. There were others -- but midnight happenings may have passed unnoticed by our big tree. Eventually the bridge was built where it now stands with the power race unhampered by its piers.

In 1891 the old covered bridge came down and the present one was built on its site. In 1900 the Cement company bought the old mill site and the power race began a new era. For the new dwellings and buildings of the white men, cement from the marl beds of near-by lakes was taking the place of lumber from King Pine.

In 1903 the fifty year old wooden dam across the Muskegon needed to be replaced. A wooden affair with long apron upstream was erected. But before the waters of the Muskegon could fill the pond, the dam went out. Our big tree rather liked that, I think! The new dam had to be much more sturdily built. It stands there today.

In the 1920's another era was ushered in. The Consumers Power company took over the power race, and the waters of the ancient river began to turn the dynamos faster, ever faster, to make electricity for the white men.

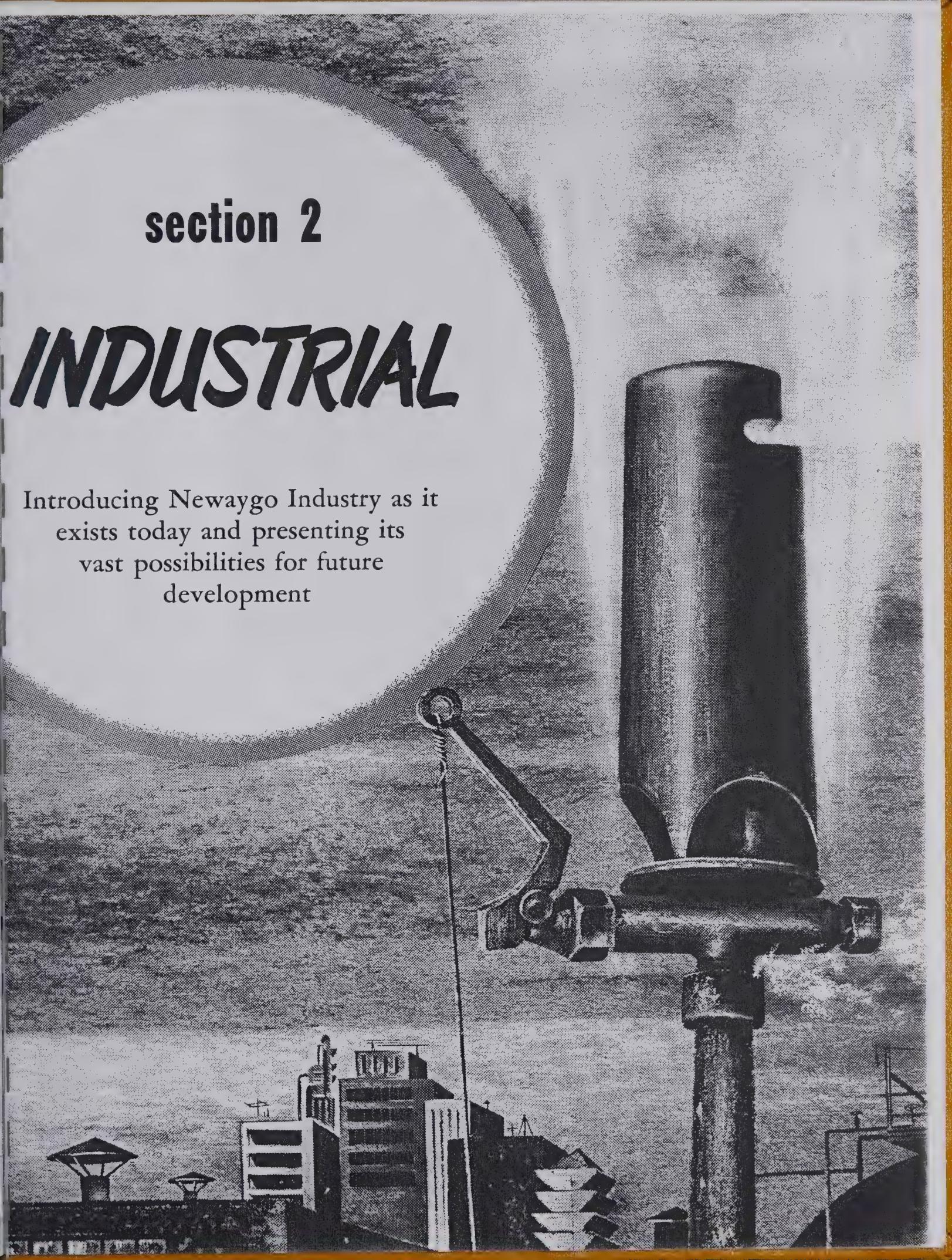
Our big elm would include in its own "log" many, many more memories that are not recounted here. It lives on, witnessing the pageant of the ever changing history of man around and below it. We who make that history rush about below its serenity and add to those memories.



section 2

INDUSTRIAL

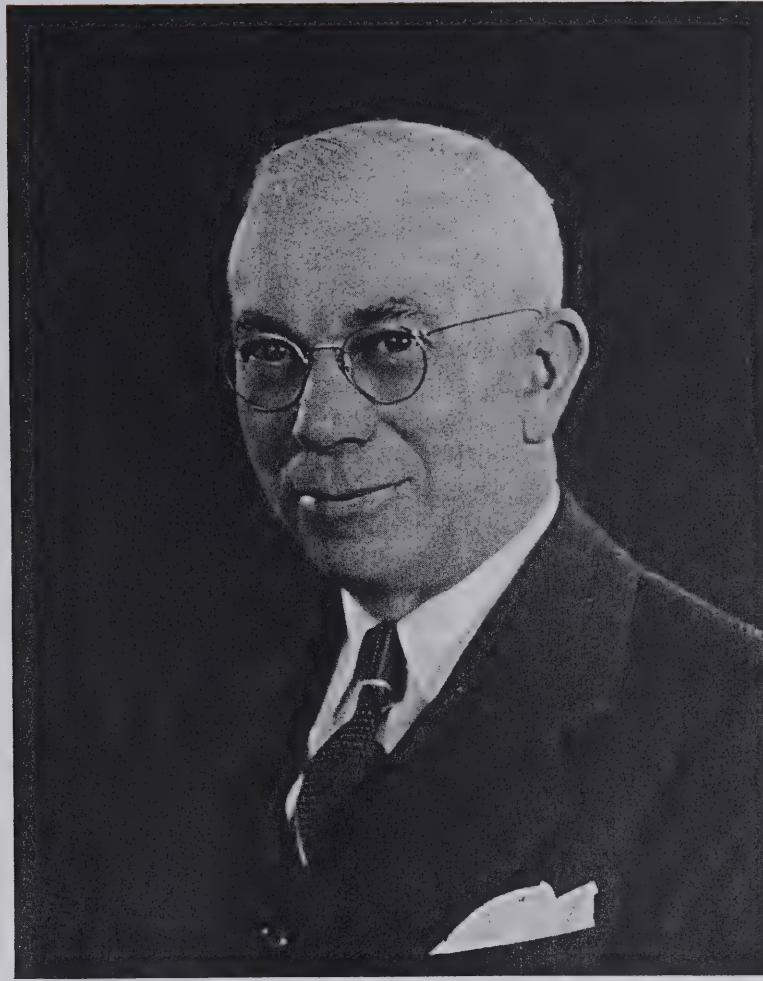
Introducing Newaygo Industry as it exists today and presenting its vast possibilities for future development





NEWAYGO CENTENNIAL BRIDGE

OFFICIALLY DEDICATED SEPTEMBER 3rd, 1953 BY CHARLES M. ZIEGLER - State Highway Commissioner



CHARLES M. ZIEGLER - State Highway Commissioner

GREETINGS!

I want to extend my personal greetings to you, the citizens of Newaygo, and to congratulate you on your fine community and for the able leadership it has provided over the years. I am sure your Centennial celebration will be a great success.

I am happy that the State Highway Department was able to better the transportation facilities of your community by means of a new bridge and improved roads. As funds become available for your county on a fair and equitable distribution basis, we want to continue the construction or reconstruction necessary on trunklines in Newaygo County to improve highway facilities.

Before World War II, some consideration had been given to a relocation of M-37 around the City to the west, and the construction of the new bridge would have been about a mile downstream from its present location. We abandoned this old plan because it would have left the old span which was at the site of the new bridge as a city-owned bridge and, therefore, would have been a heavy city liability. It also would have removed the main traffic off the present route of M-37. It is the unanimous belief that the new bridge will not only serve the traffic but will be of great benefit to your community.

The new bridge is 555 ft. in length. It consists of two 98 ft. 6 in., two 118 ft., and one 122 ft. deck plate girder spans of the cantilever-type design. It provides for two 24 ft. roadways, separated by a 3 ft. median strip and two sidewalks 5 ft. in width. The general contract was awarded to L. W. Lamb of Holland on July 3, 1951. Construction was delayed by the national defense steel situation. The total cost of the bridge, including surveys, plans, and engineering, will be approximately \$900,000.

The old bridge was built in 1890. It consisted of four 110 ft. deck truss spans and one 13 ft. 8 in. steel stringer span. The roadway width was 17 ft. 4 in., and there were two sidewalks 4 ft. in width. For many years, the old bridge had been a constant source of expense and a considerable hazard because of the narrow roadway width which was entirely inadequate for modern traffic, its weakened condition, and the sharp-turn approach.

Charles M. Ziegler
State Highway Commissioner

HARNESSING *the* MUSKEGON RIVER

Water for Power

Newaygo and the mighty Muskegon River have always played a major role in Consumers Power Company's development of electric service for the people of Michigan. Even in 1838, when Augustus Pennoyer and another man traveled the Muskegon River and constructed a saw mill at Pennoyer's Creek near Newaygo, the usefulness of the river was recognized. After this mill was completed in 1837, the cut lumber was floated in rafts down the Muskegon River to its mouth and loaded on the schooner *Celeste* to be taken to Chicago - the first such shipment from this area.

From this time on the Muskegon River has been serving the people in many ways. For many years the river was choked with tossing logs. Bearded men sweated in the snows and shadows of the forest, while in Newaygo and other towns saw mills screeched through the night.

Then the prized trees were gone leaving hundreds of thousands of acres of devastated cut-over land. It was shortly after the lumbering industry had faded away that the predecessors of the Consumers Power Company including one formed by George L. Erwin (still residing at Croton) and his associates decided to develop the water power to generate electricity for use in Grand Rapids and Muskegon. The Grand Rapids - Muskegon Power Company was organized in 1904. Rogers Dam, a few miles south of Big Rapids, was completed in 1906 and served several industrial plants and the interurban railroad between Grand Rapids and Muskegon.

Croton Dam, which is one of the oldest and most picturesque of the Consumers Power hydro-electric, was placed in operation in 1907. Seen from the air or from the ground, the dam and village made a scene of striking beauty. Mr. Erwin's summer residence is here. Croton Substation, one of the major control centers of the Company's interconnected transmission system is at Croton.

Hardy Dam, which was placed in service in 1932, is the newest and largest hydro-electric generating plant. With a capacity of 40,000 h.p., it is the largest hydro-electric plant in Michigan.

The Newaygo Dam is a unique type of plant for it has celebrated rope-driven generators, which are still operating every day to help fill the power needs of Michigan.

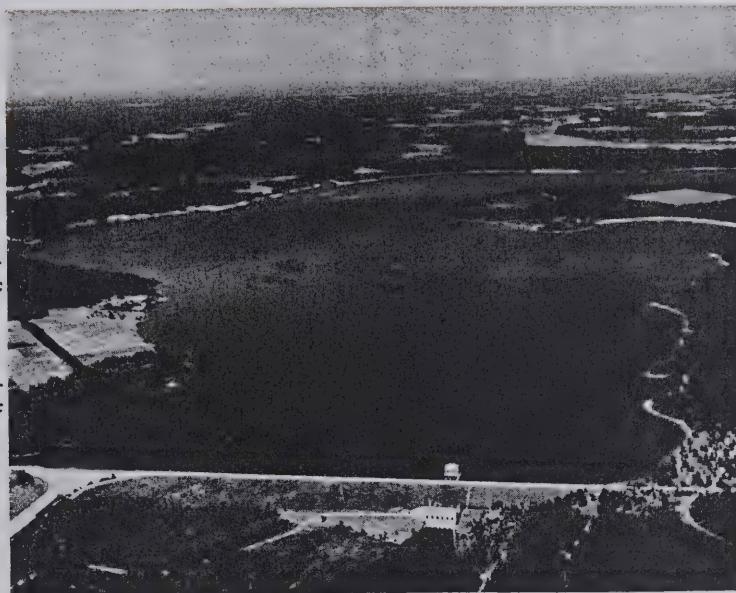
At this point it is interesting to note that the development of these hydro generating plants required suitable means of transmitting the power over long distances to far-away loads. Because of this need, much pioneering work was done in the Newaygo area.

In the history of the electrical industry, the beginning of tower line construction is coupled with the "firsts" achieved by Consumers Power Company in the field of high voltage transmission, for it was near Newaygo that the first 70,000 volt (1906), 110,000 volt (1907) and 140,000 volt (1911) lines were successfully operated. In 1907 the Croton - Grand Rapids line went into service at 110,000 volts. As this line was energized, notables of the electrical world from many distant lands were on hand to view this progressive step, making it possible to bring more power to more people at low cost.

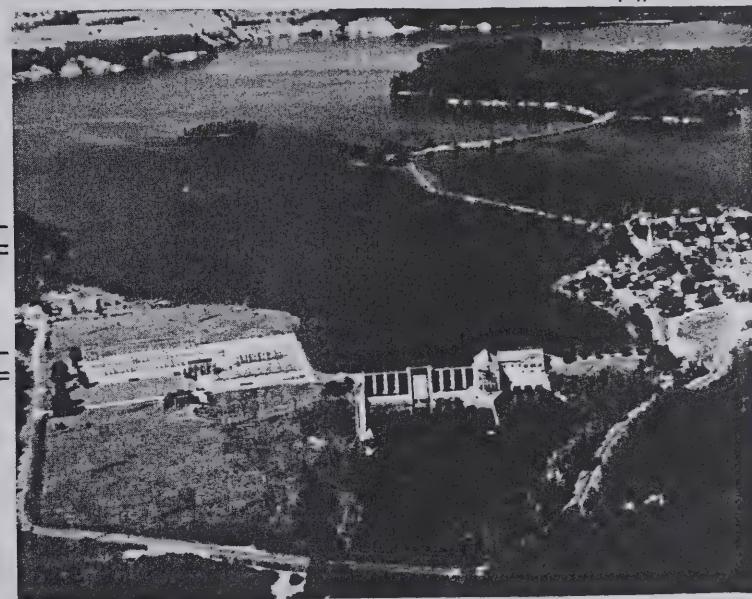
The changing times have also affected the balance between the hydro and steam generation of power. When the dams were first erected on the Muskegon River, this was the principal source of power with nearly all of the total daily output being from the hydro plants. Since 1932, huge demands, increasing annually, have been met by erecting coal-burning steam-electric generating plants at strategic points on the shores of the Great Lakes - the John C. Weadock Plant at Bay City, the B. C. Cobb Plant at Muskegon, and the recently-erected Justin R. Whiting Plant on Lake Erie. These plants along with a number of other steam-electric plants now produce over 90% of the power required by over 2,000,000 people using Consumers Power Company Electric service.

Consumers Power Company in harnessing the water power of the Muskegon River has come into possession of extensive lands which were cut over, burned over later, and for many years it has been conducting a reforestation program. The results of this program can be seen every day by the public as they have opportunity to hunt and fish along this river.

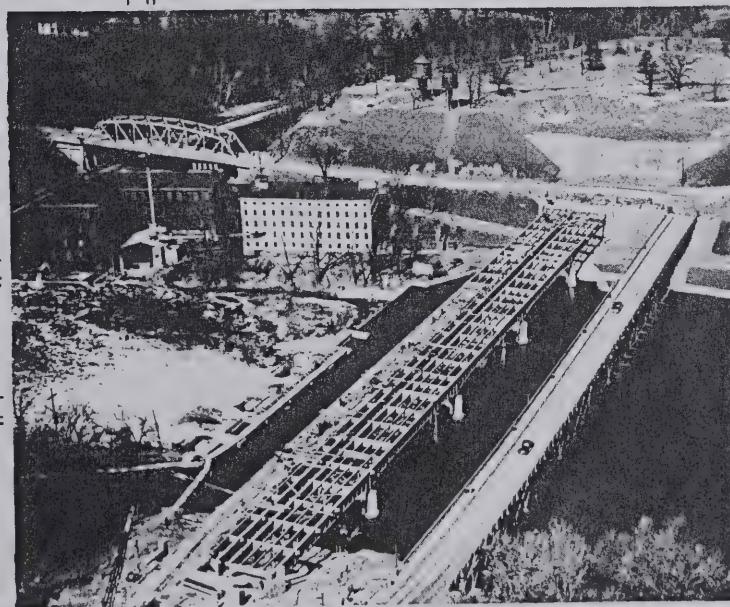
Along with the dams, substations, transmission and distribution lines in the Newaygo area, it must be said that none of this would be very useful without the attention of the fine group of hard working and loyal employees that are known in Newaygo as those Consumers men and women, your friends and neighbors.



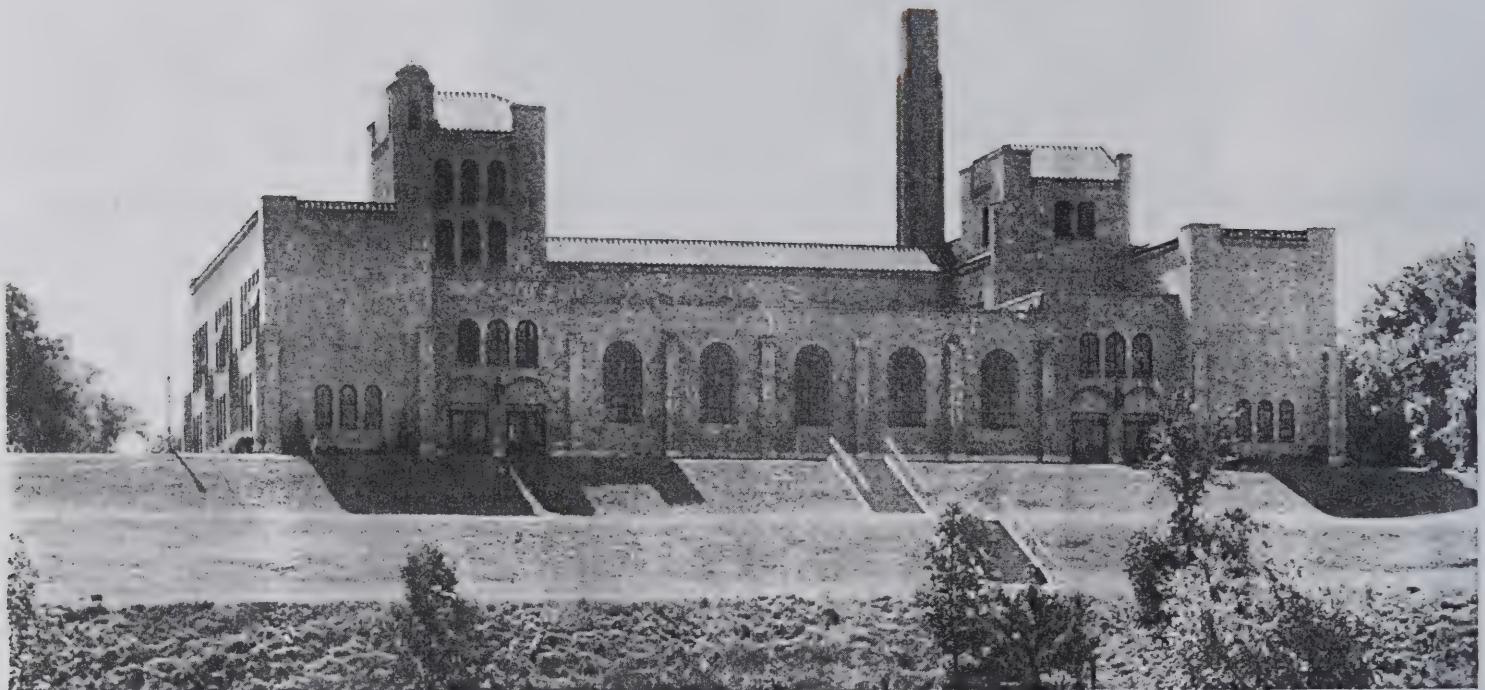
HARDY DAM



CROTON DAM



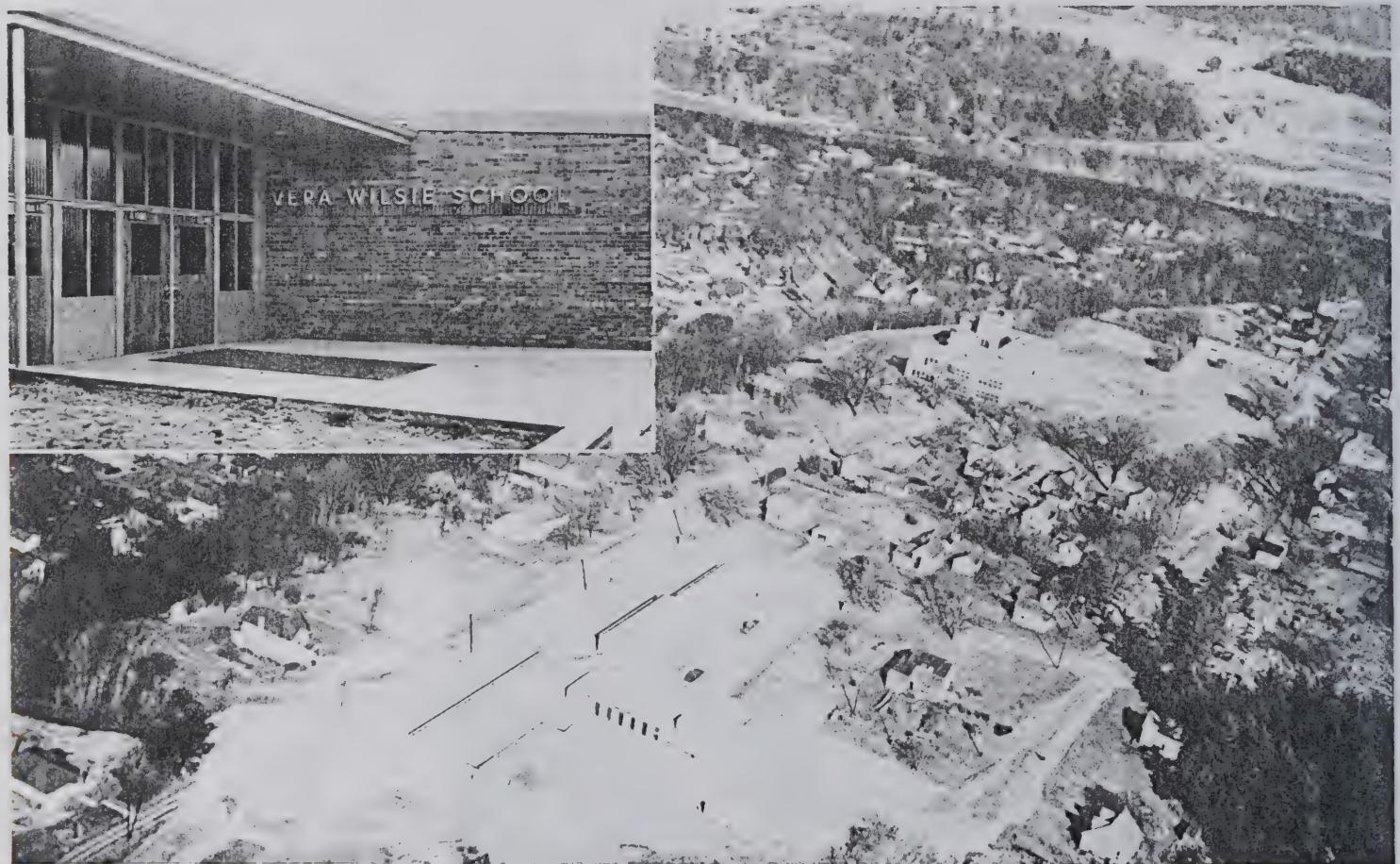
NEWAYGO DAM



NEWAYGO HIGH SCHOOL

photo - Dick Black

photo - Dick Black



VERA WILSIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

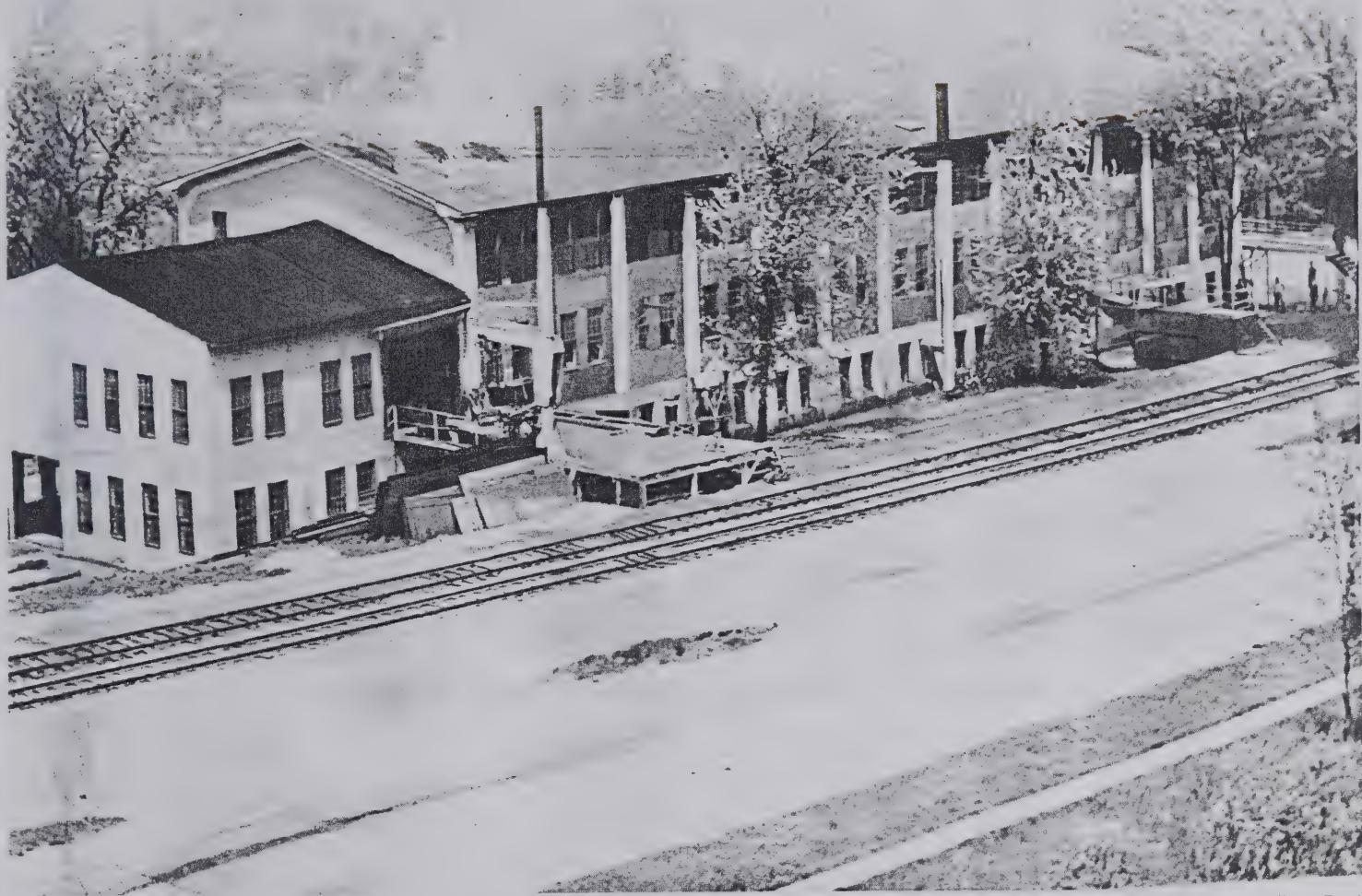
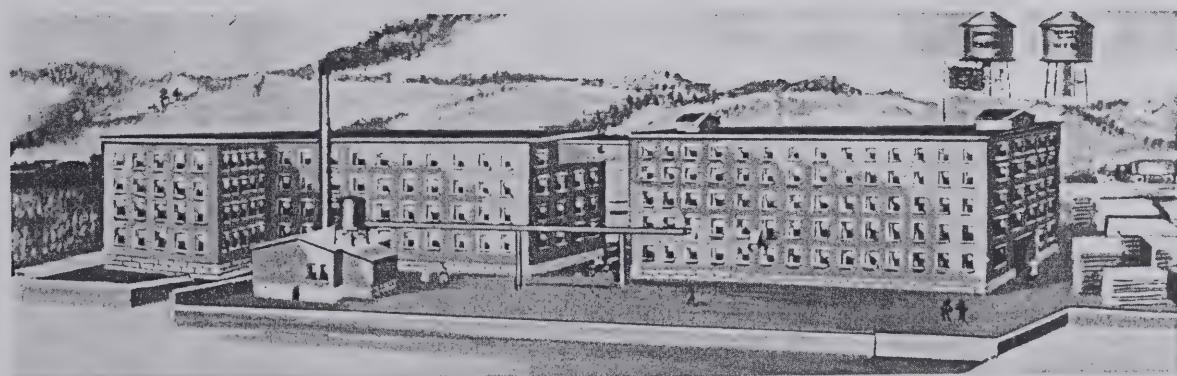


photo - Dick Black

NEWAYGO ENGINEERING PLANT



HENRY ROWE MFG. COMPANY

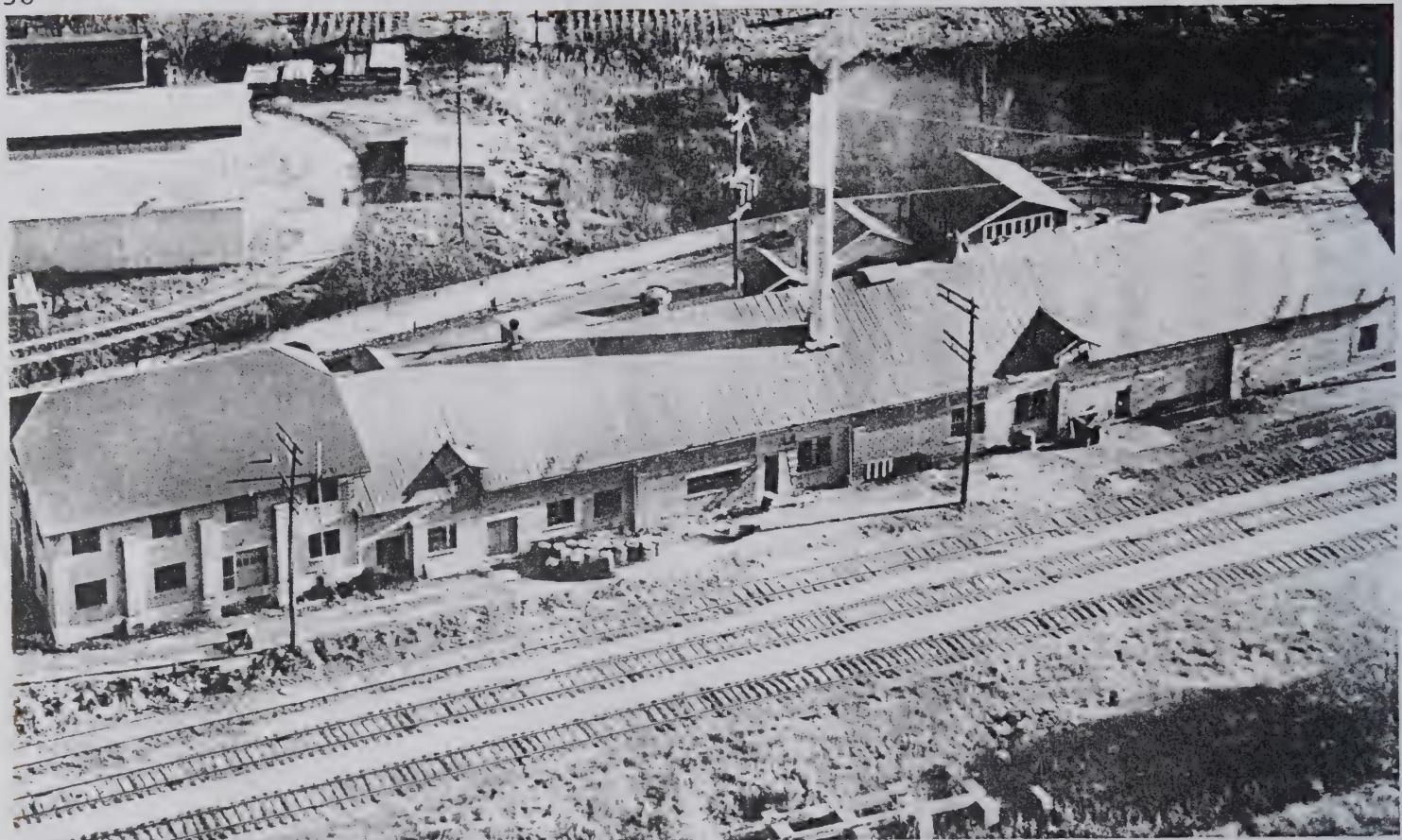


photo - Dick Black

FERMENTATION PRODUCTS COMPANY



ROBEY MFG. COMPANY



photo - Dick Black

AERIAL VIEW OF NEWAYGO BUSINESS DISTRICT



photo - Dick Black

AERIAL VIEW OF NEWAYGO IN RELATION TO MUSKEGON RIVER.

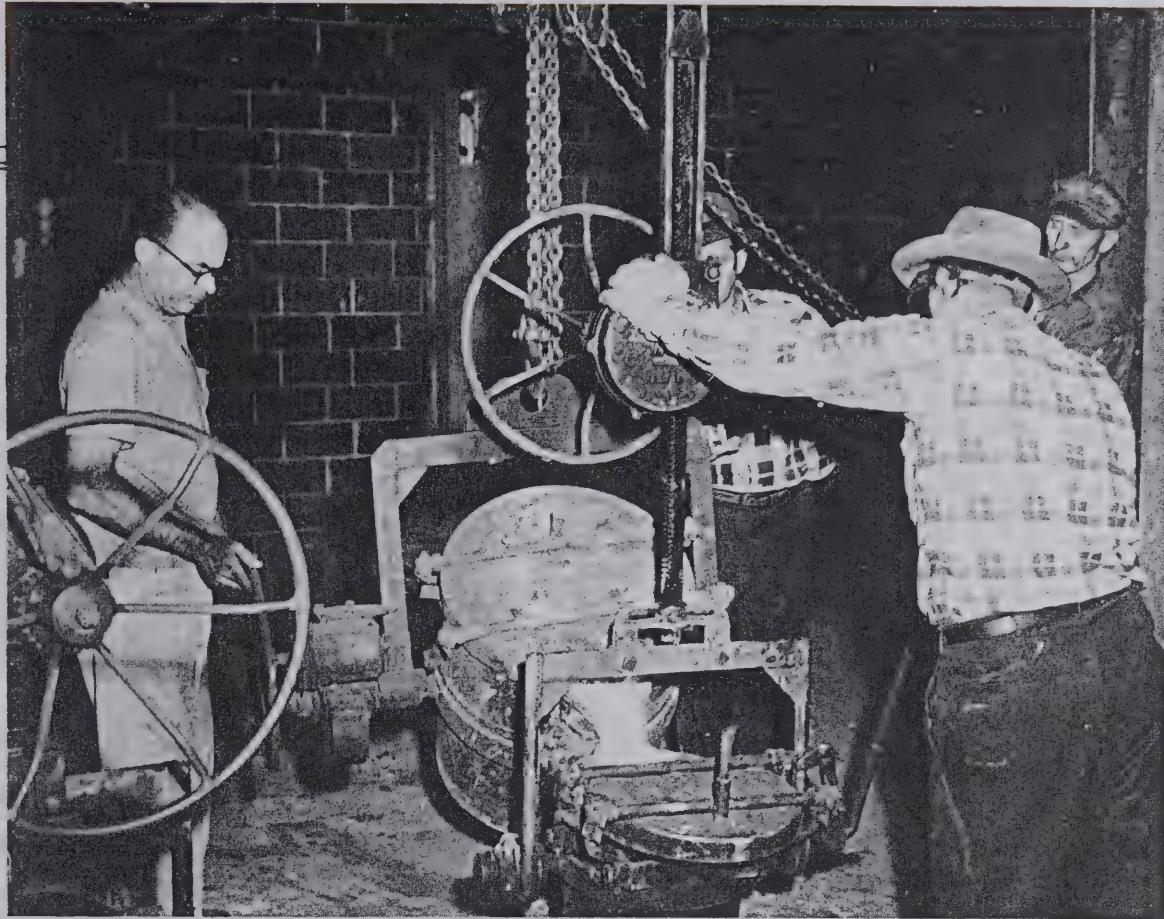


NEWAYGO AIRPORT

photo - Dick Black



O & A ELECTRIC CO-OP OFFICE



first Iron being poured at NEWAYGO FOUNDRY COMPANY



photo - Dick Black

ROBT. ANDERSON ORCHARDS - another of Newaygos many enterprises

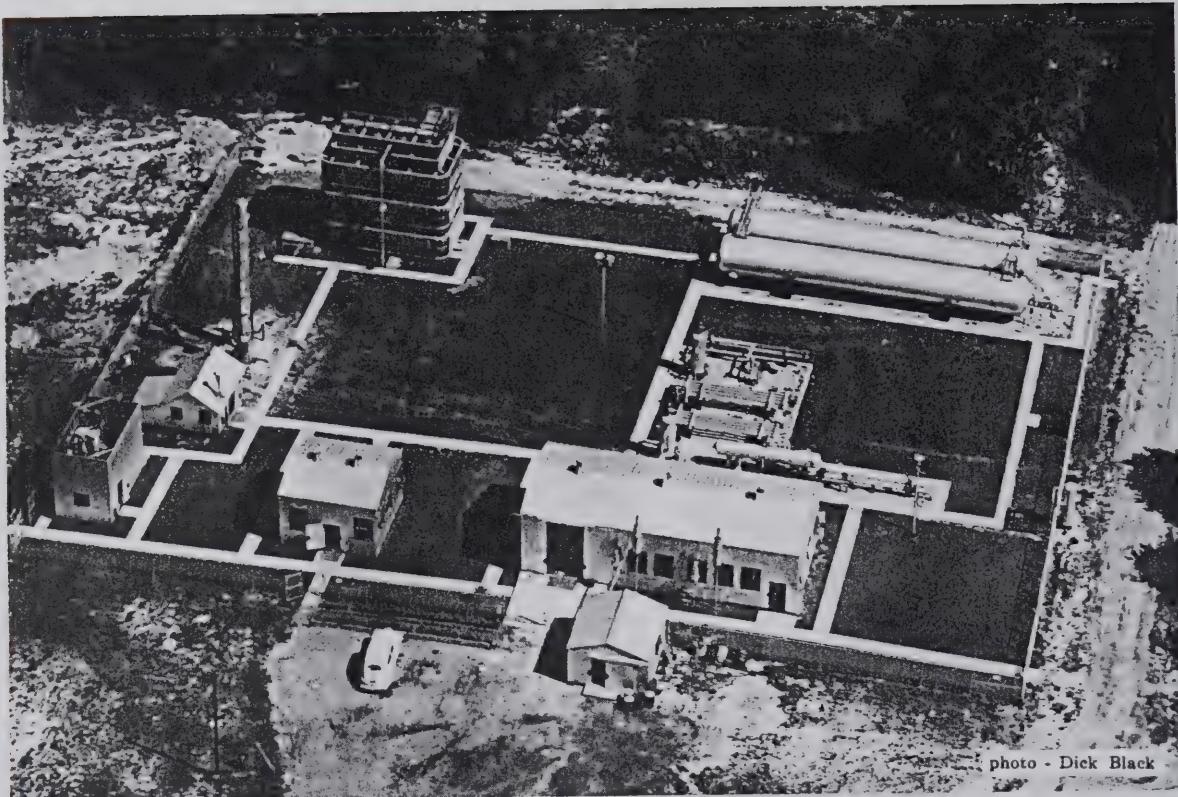


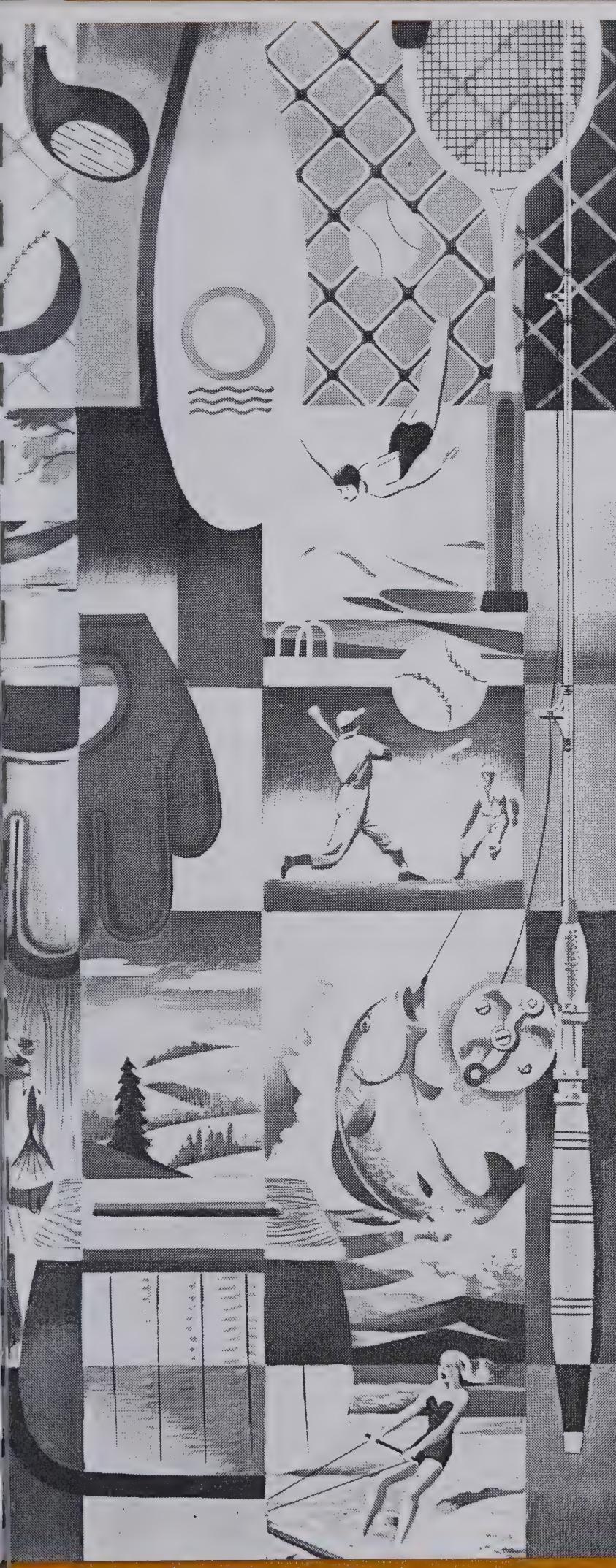
photo - Dick Black

SUN OIL COMPANY GAS PLANT — The first August Linder Well #1 drilling began January 20, 1947 and was completed February 22, 1947. When the plant was operating at full capacity, it had 87 wells - it now has 56 active wells. The plant is located about 1 mile and a half Northwest of Newaygo.



photo - Dick Black

AERIAL VIEW OF MUSKEGON RIVER AT NEWAYGO



section 3

Introducing

West Michigans
Playground of Scenic Beauty



HUNTING



FISHING



SWIMMING





STARTING A DAY OF FISHING FUN, FLOATING DOWN THE BEAUTIFUL
MUSKEGON RIVER

photo - Dick Black



REWARD OF A DAYS FISHING

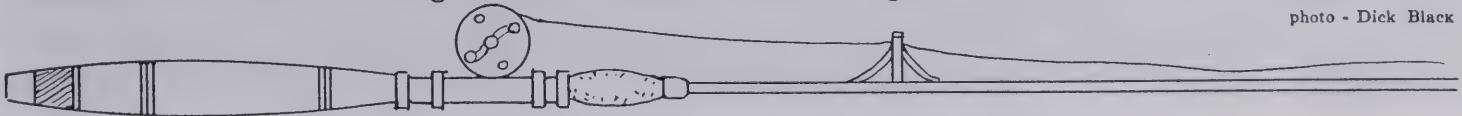
photo - Dick Black

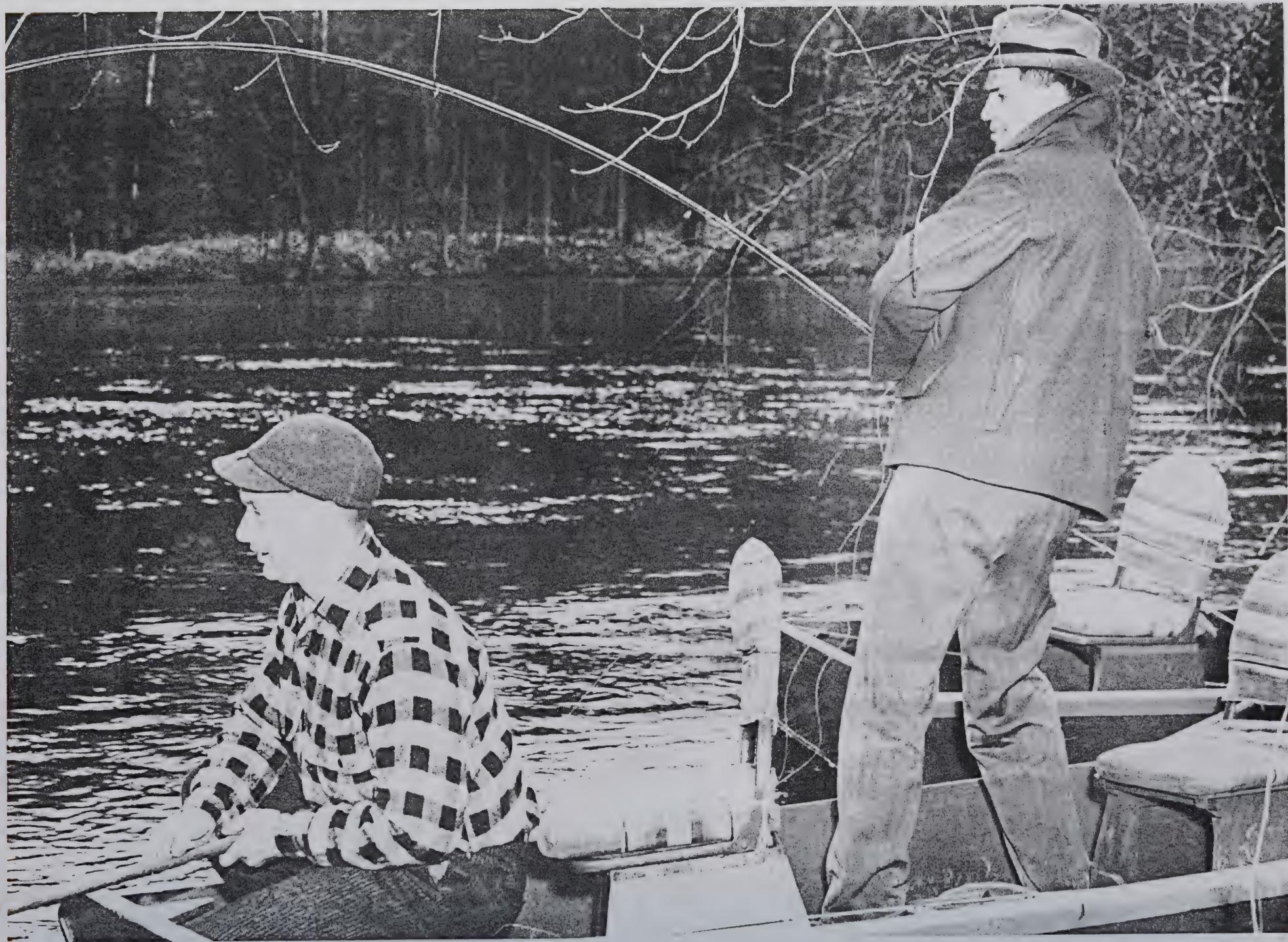




Above pictured fisherman have fished the Muskegon for 22 years. They must be well satisfied with the Muskegon, and confident of Hennings Guide Service in Newaygo.

photo - Dick Black





Michigan Governor G. Mennan landing a big one, while Nels Chamberlain, operator of Chamberlain's Guide Service assists with the landing net. The Governor is one of the many satisfied sportsmen who fish the Muskegon.

photo - Dick Black



"OLD WOMENS BEND" - one of the beauty spots on the river.

photo - Dick Black



ONE OF OUR FAMOUS STEELHEAD TROUT - taken on river trip with Orley Siders, (left) who has served the public as a guide for many years.



BACK WATERS OF NEWAYGO DAM

photo - Dick Black



RIVER SCENE ON THE UPPER STRETCH, NEAR DEVILS HOLE

photo - Dick Black



ANOTHER RIVER SCENE NEAR HIGH ROLLWAY

photo - Dick Black



photo - Dick Black

FAMOUS NEWAYGO COLOR TOURS

Elaine Beth and Nancy Bumstead posting a Color Tour sign which will direct many motorists to the many beauty spots in Newaygo County each year during the month of October.

These Newaygo Color Tours, which attract thousands to this area every year, were originated in Newaygo County in 1929.

Many communities throughout the nation have since organized their own Color Tours which today are very popular.



photo - Dick Black

BIGLOW CREEK - one of our beautiful trout streams,
just 1 mile east of Newaygo



photo - Dick Black

DON TERRILL and A GROUP OF HIS SEA SCOUTS
at one of Newaygo's camping spots



photo - Dick Black

KIMBALL, PICKREL, EMERALD, and SYLVAN LAKES - The Little Switzerland of America



in Newaygo, WE FISH IN THE WINTER TIME

photo - Dick Black



also WE TOBOGGAN - taken at Newaygo's winter sports park

photo - Dick Black



BOW and ARROW HUNTING - is a popular sport in the Newaygo area



AERIAL PHOTO OF HESS and BROOKS LAKES - located 2 miles
South of Newaygo

photo - Dick Black



COUNT THE DEER in one of the Newaygo County winter Deer Herds

photo - Dick Black



IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES YOU WILL FIND A LIST OF BUSINESS PEOPLE WHO WILL GIVE YOU PROMPT & COURTEOUS SERVICE WHILE YOU ARE IN THE NEWAYGO AREA. WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED THIS CENTENNIAL BOOKLET, AND WE EXTEND OUR THANKS TO YOU FOR PURCHASING THIS BOOK AND HELPING TO MAKE OUR CENTENNIAL

A GREAT SUCCESS.....

THE COMMITTEE



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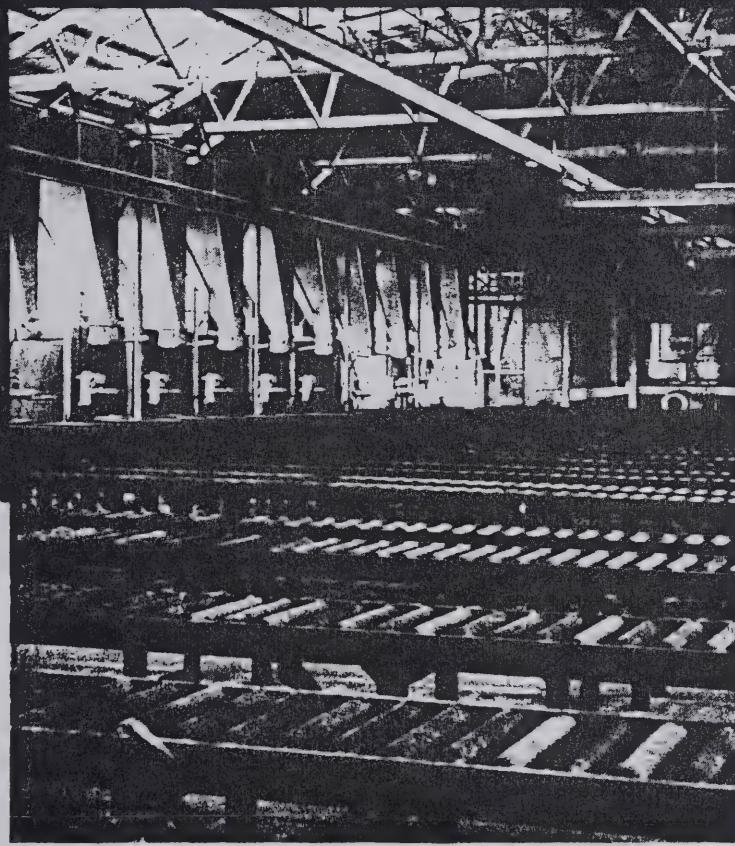
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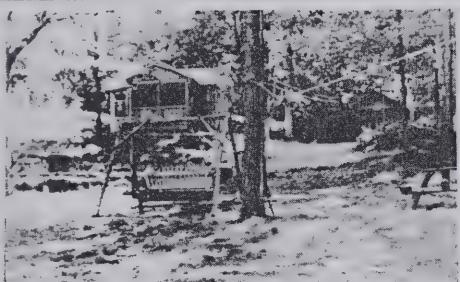
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Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Newaygo Community on its Centennial. Gerber's Baby Foods especially appreciates the large number from your community who have worked and helped develop our company into the world's largest producer of baby foods.

Our many good friends from Newaygo in the fields of agriculture, business, government and education, have done outstanding work over the years to build their fine community, where they work and play together.

In order to secure the maximum benefit for Newaygo County to our many fields of work, county unity and solidarity is of paramount importance.

We congratulate Newaygo and its leaders in the recognition of this cardinal principal of community effort and upon their acceptance of this responsibility along with the other progressive communities of Newaygo County.

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South Newaygo Limits M-37

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NEWAYGO

CENTENNIAL

1853 → → → 1953

M-37 - MOTEL

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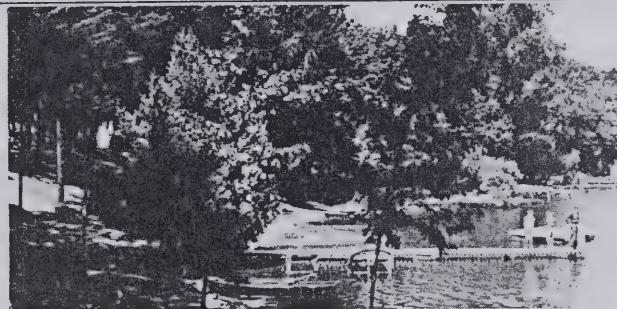
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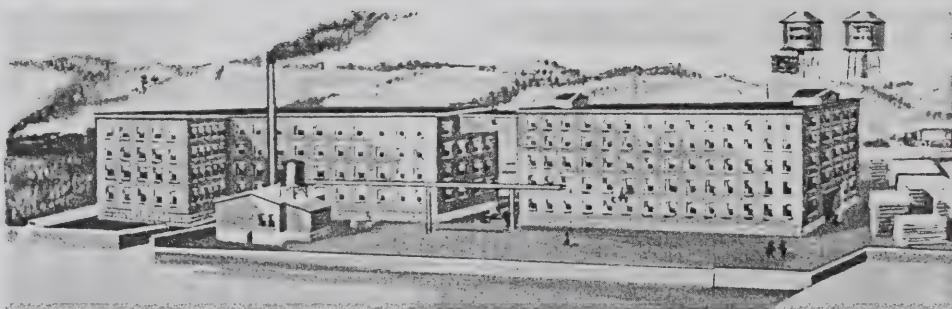
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